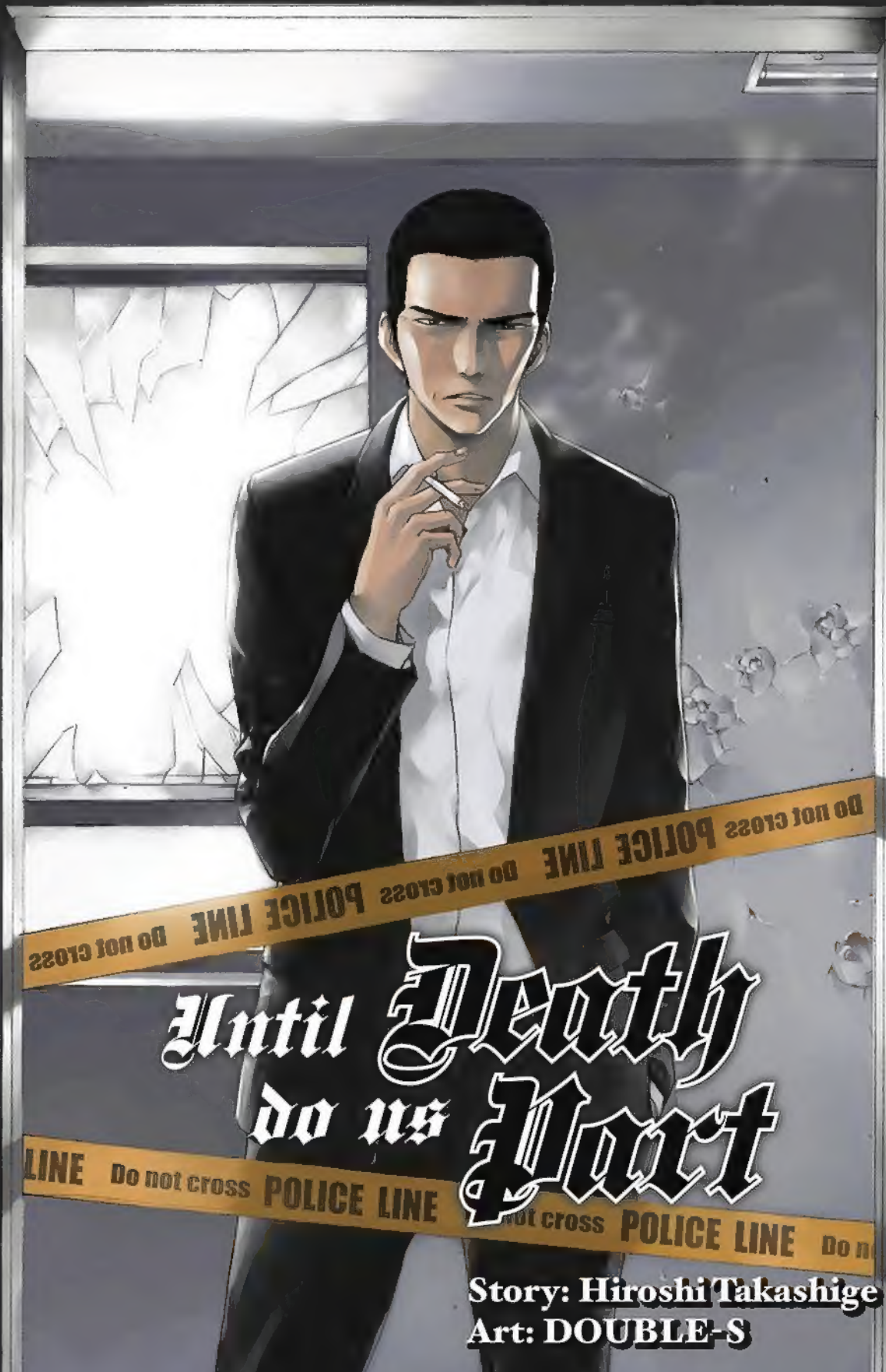
Until Death do us Part
3
Story: Hiroshi Takashige
Art: DOUBLE-S


Until Death do us Part
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Until Death do us Part

Until Death do us Part

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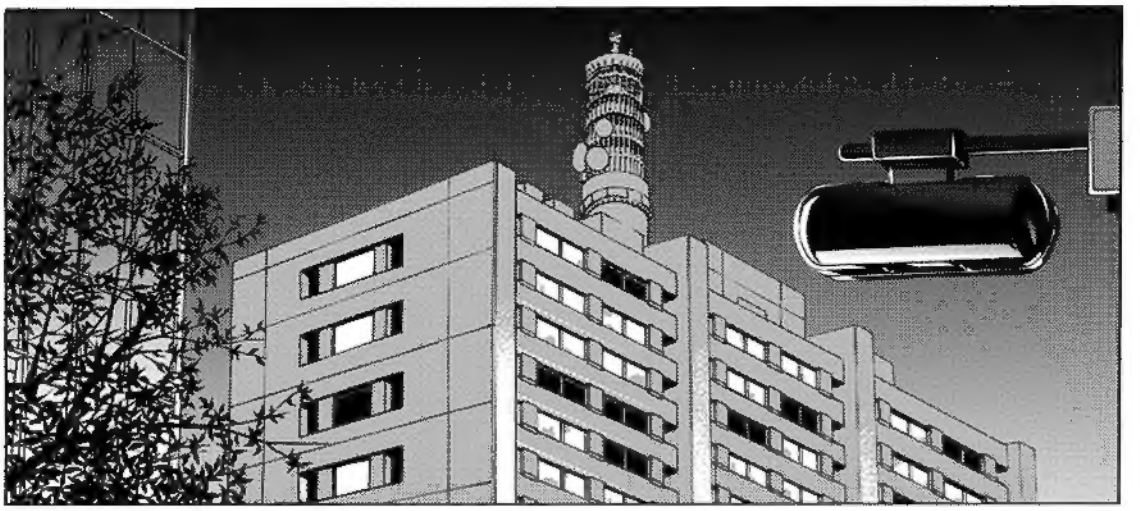
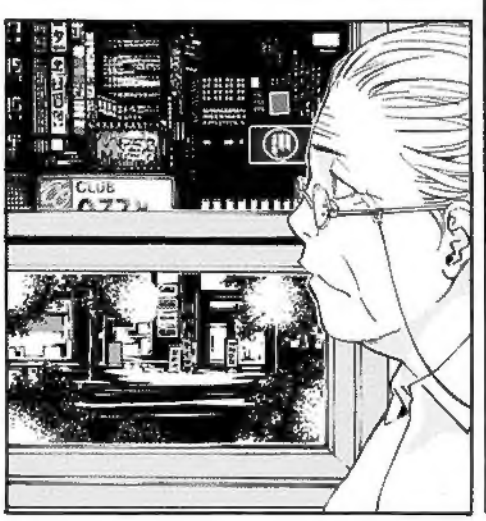
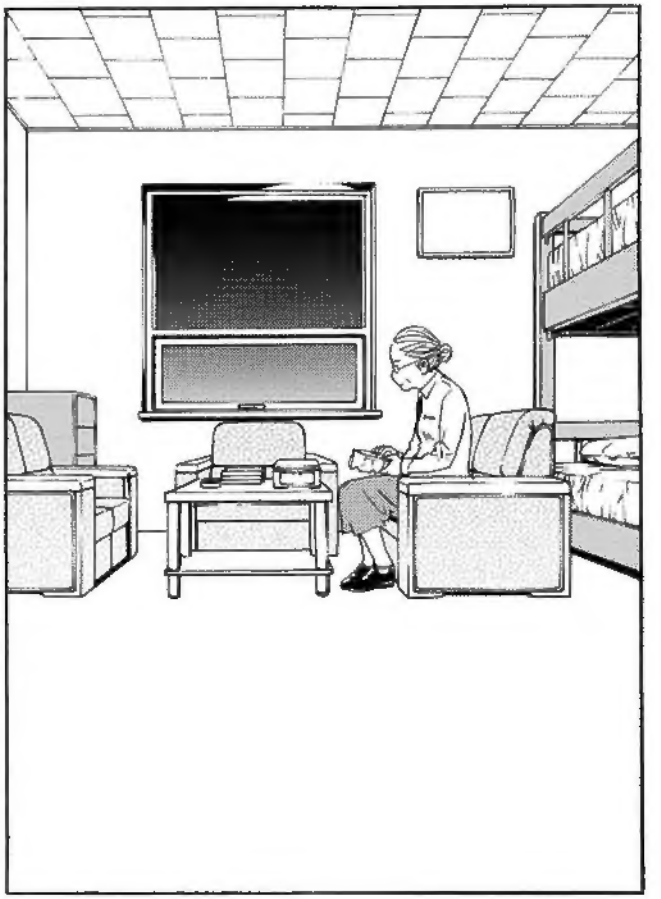


SIGN: NIGHT SHIFT ROOM





...C...
...COME IN...
KON (KNOCK)
コンコン
KON
BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
.....
PARDON ME, MA'AM.
DETECTIVE ...

chapter 33

KATA
カタ
...DID YOU LET HARUKA GO?
WHY...
KATA (TAP)
ブオオオ
WHAT !?
I JUST FIGURED IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO DIVIDE OUR ASSETS.
MODE
.....

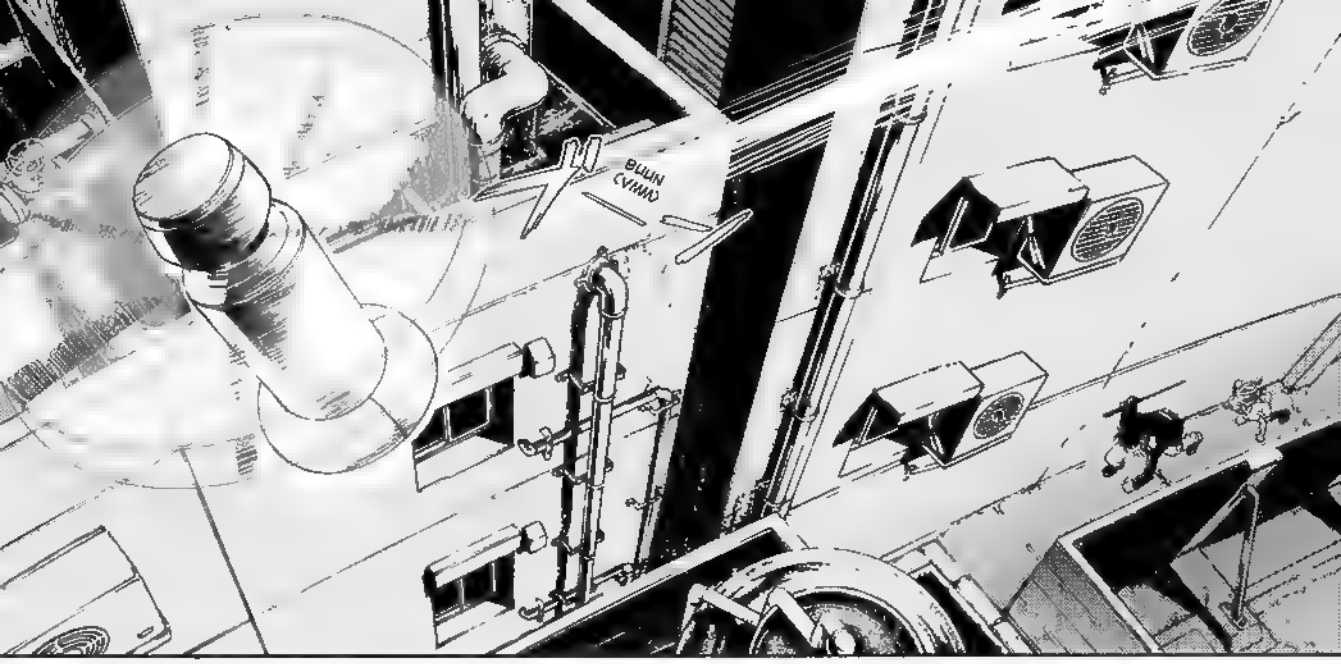
I'VE BEEN LOOKING UP SOME THINGS ON MY OWN TIME.
I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT VERY WELL, BUT THE GIST OF IT IS, THE FUTURE IS NEVER SET IN STONE.
HER BEING WITH MAMORU MIGHT BE LESS DANGEROUS FOR THE BOTH OF THEM, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
.....
THE FUTURE ISN'T A SINGLE PATH THAT STRETCHES ONWARD FOREVER.
IT SPLITS ALONG BRANCHING POINTS.
...HUH ...?

THAT MEANS THERE ARE AS MANY POTENTIAL FUTURES AS THERE ARE BRANCHES.
BUT THOSE BRANCHING POINTS DON'T NECESSARILY ALL LEAD TO DISTINCT FUTURES—THEY OVERLAP IN PLACES.
HARUKA CAN "SEE" THOSE PLACES, THOSE OUTCOMES THAT RESULT WHERE THE BRANCHES OVERLAP MOST AND THUS HAVE THE HIGHEST PROBABILITY.
SO IN A WAY, HER ABILITY IS MORE LIKE PREDICTION THAN FORESIGHT.
??
HARUKA CAN'T OFFER UNREALISTIC ANSWERS...
...BECAUSE IF SOMETHING'S NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN, SHE JUST ISN'T ABLE TO SEE IT.

...
IF HARUKA'S RIGHT AND I'M THE KEY, AND IF I CAN CARRY OUT MY JOB...
...THEN I KNOW IT WILL HELP BOTH OF THEM.
SO ALL WE CAN DO IS PROVIDE THEM WITH SUPPORT THAT HELPS THEM CHOOSE THE BEST POSSIBILITY OF THE BUNCH.
EXACTLY!
GACHA (CHUNK)
...BUT I GUESS YOU'RE SAYING WE SHOULD KEEP MOVING LIKE HARUKA SAYS?
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND...
?
FINE. BUT!

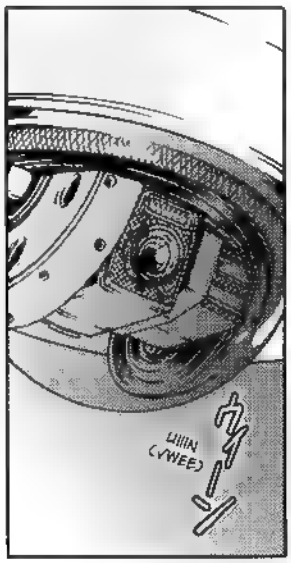
I-I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST.
IF ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS TO HARUKA, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR IT.
ISN'T SHE WORRIED ABOUT HER GRANDMA IN THE LEAST?
SHE'S SUCH A SWEET GIRL. HOW COULD THAT BE?
ダダダッ
DA (DASH)
DA
DA

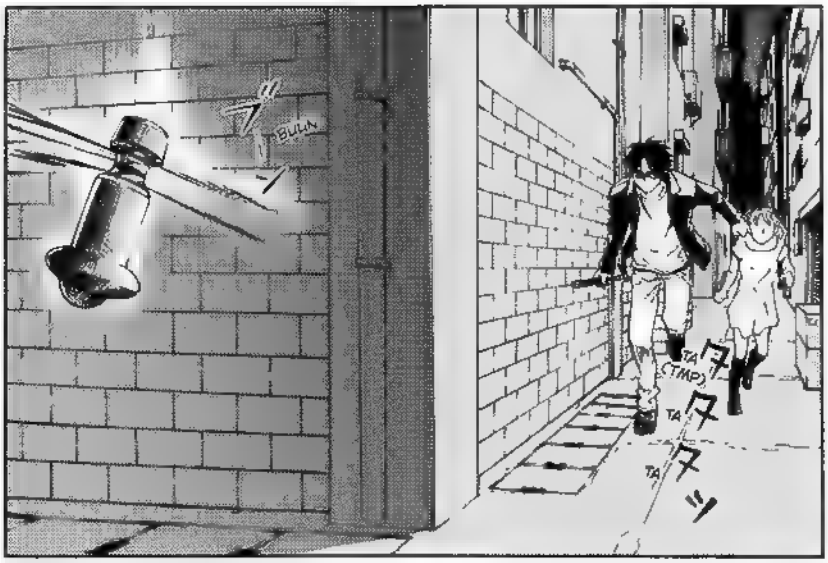
DA // DA
HAA (HUFF)
HAA
BUUN (VWM)
...YOU'RE NOT GETTIN' AWAY...
HYUO (WHOOSH)
BUUN
PI-I
APLA (PING)
PI-I
PIPI


BULIN (VHMM)

IF I NEEDED HIGH-POWER PROCESSING, WE'D HAVE A PROBLEM...
...BUT THERE'S NO POINT IF WE CAN'T SEE THE ENEMY TO BEGIN WITH.

C-CAN YOU STILL SEE IF WE KEEP MOVING AWAY FROM THE VAN?


UHHH (VWEE)


BULIN
TA (TMP)
TA
TA

DOKI
(BA-BUMP)
!?

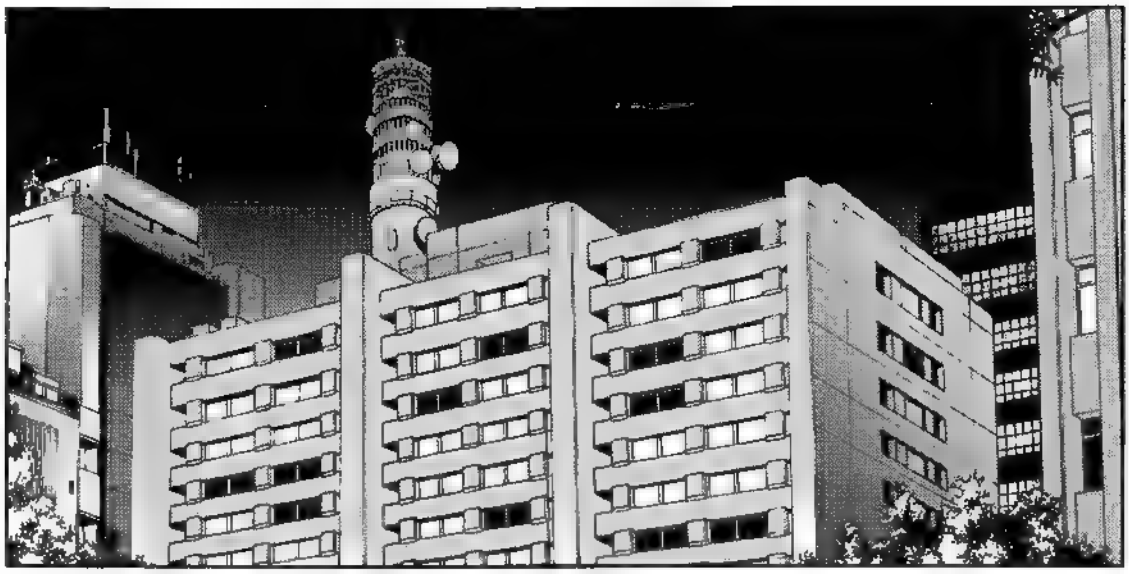
POKI
(BA-BUMP)
BUWA
(WHOOSH)

BULUUN (VMM)
TA (TMP)
TA
TA
TA
KACHA (CLICK)
RUN !!

VUUN (VMM)
GA (WHAK)
GAGA (CLUNK)
GAN (WHAM)
HUH !?
...WHAT'S UP...? DID YOU THINK IT WOULD KILL ME OR SOMETHING?
?

...I SEE...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT IT UP...
BUN
BUN (SMAKE)
NO TIME. LET'S HURRY ...
OKAY.
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE IT...
HE REALLY IS INCRED-IBLE...
OH, THAT'S IT. MASTERING THE ART OF FIGHTING MEANS LEARNING TO SENSE DANGER...
...AND BEING ABLE TO INSTANTLY CHOOSE ONE OF THE FEW AVAILABLE CHANCES TO SURVIVE.

WITH A MAN LIKE HIM...
...NO... ONLY WITH A MAN LIKE HIM...
...WILL I FIND TRUE PROTECTION ...



THANK YOU...

DON'T MIND ME. PLEASE CONTINUE.

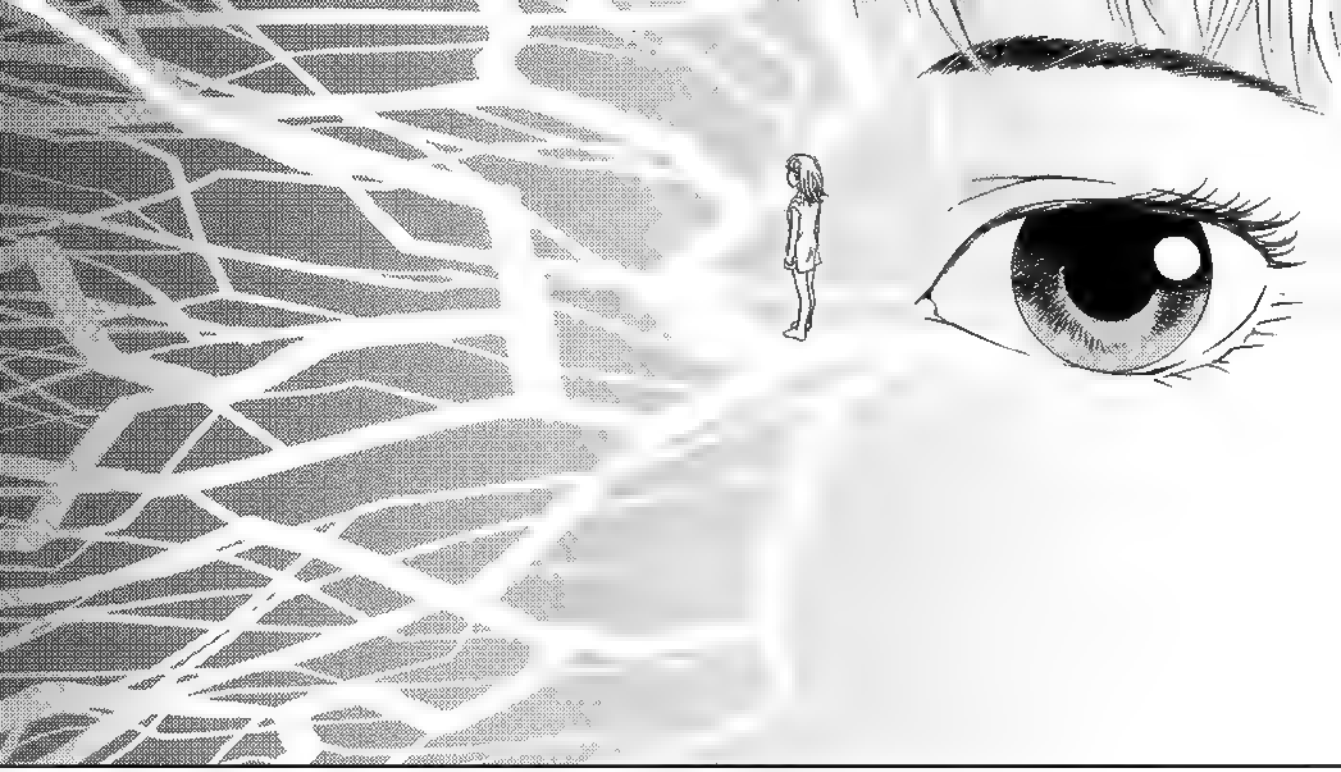
SORRY I CAN'T OFFER YOU MORE COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODA-TIONS.

...
THE POLICE STATION IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE I CAN FEEL ANY PEACE.
...THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
IT'S FOR MY GRAND-DAUGHTER'S WEDDING.
I JUST COULDN'T RELAX, SO THIS TAKES MY MIND OFF OF THINGS.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL EMBROI-DERY.
WHAT WILL IT BE?

I'M SURE I'LL HAVE AN ENTIRE DRESS DONE BY THE TIME SHE'S READY TO MARRY.
WHICH IS WHY I'M STARTING EARLY.
ISN'T SHE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
WEDDING ?
I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THAT PLEASURE BIT BY BIT SINCE THE DAY MY GRAND-DAUGHTER WAS BORN.
...I SEE.
.....

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE'S ALIVE AND WELL...
...IT'S STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER IS ALIVE.
THAT MUCH I SWEAR TO YOU.

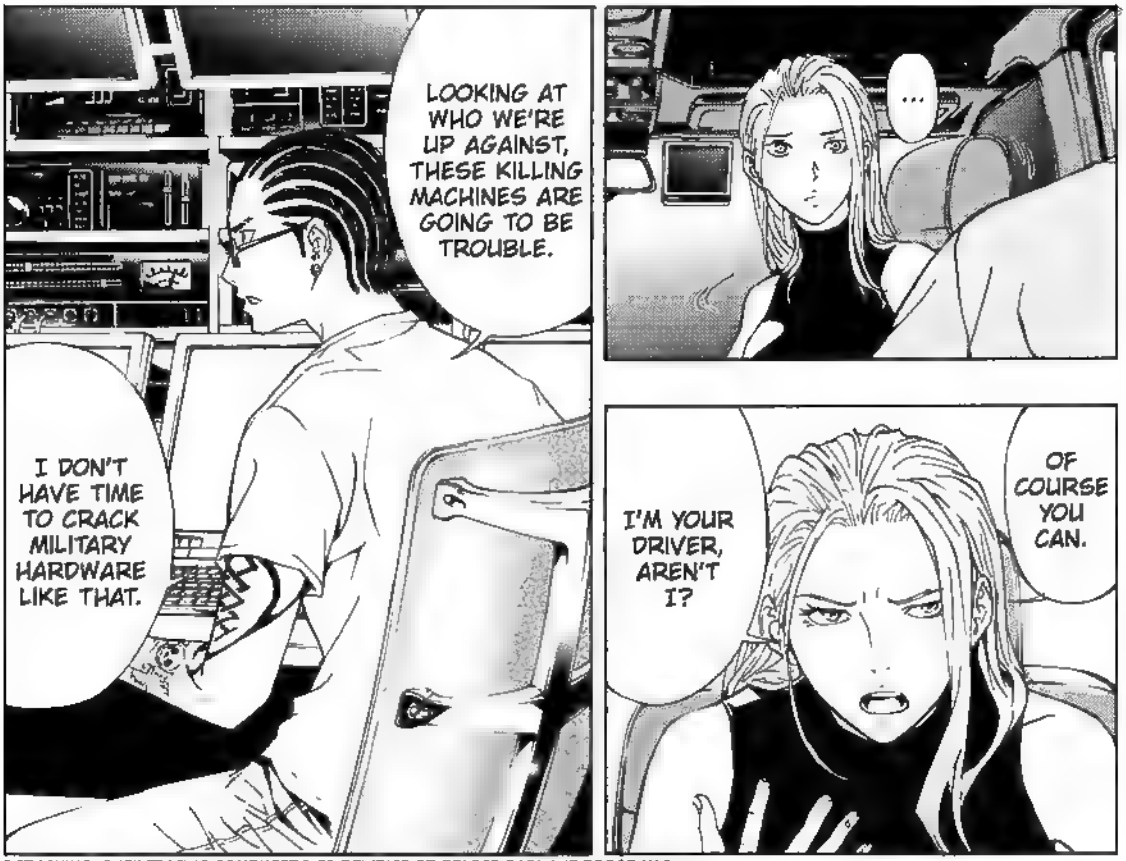
SHE BELIEVES THE GIRL IS ALIVE...
.....
THAT'S WHAT MOVES EVERY THRUST OF HER NEEDLE...
YES.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A VERY SPECIAL GIRL...SHE'LL BE FINE.
...SPECIAL, YOU SAY?



Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 34

KII (SCREECH)
WEST SETAGAYA STATION
THIS IS OUR SPOT?
CAN I ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING DANGEROUS?
PLUS, WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
KATA (TAP)
KATA
KATA
YEAH. IT'LL BE HARDER TO ACT IF WE GET ANY CLOSER TO THE POLICE.


LOOKING AT WHO WE'RE UP AGAINST, THESE KILLING MACHINES ARE GOING TO BE TROUBLE.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CRACK MILITARY HARDWARE LIKE THAT.
...
I'M YOUR DRIVER, AREN'T I?
OF COURSE YOU CAN.

*CRACKING: INFILTRATING COMPUTERS TO REWRITE OR DELETE DATA AND PROGRAMS.

THIS COULD ALL BE WASTED EFFORT.
I'VE BEEN PINGING FOR THE SOURCE OF ITS CONTROL WAVES, BUT THEY'RE ON THE MOVE TOO, WHICH MAKES IT HARD TO PIN DOWN A LOCATION.
...ENOUGH WITH THE PROLOGUE, JUST TELL ME WHAT TO DO...
THAT GIVES US A LIMITED SET OF OPTIONS.

WE CAN'T START UP A FIREFIGHT RIGHT NEXT TO A POLICE STATION...
...SO I'LL NEED MY SILENCER.
SUCHA (CHKK)
...THANKS...
GACHA (CH-CHK)
AMATERA

ウィー
(WEE)
HAAH.
HAAH.
ARE YOU... OKAY ...?
HAAH.
HAAH.

I'M STILL ALIVE, AND I'M NOT GIVING UP.
UNLESS I'M MORTALLY WOUNDED, THERE'S NO NEED TO FUSS OVER ME.

...I'VE GOT A HANDLE ON THEIR ATTACK PATTERNS.
HUH?

BUT—!
I TOOK A FEW HITS, BUT THANKS TO THAT...

IMAGINATION IS IMPORTANT IN A SWORD-FIGHT.

WITH EVERY-THING BOUND BY THE LAWS OF PHYSICS, THERE'S ONLY SO MANY ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE.
HOW WILL THE OPPONENT STRIKE? HOW WILL YOU DEFLECT THAT ATTACK, AND WHAT POSITION WILL THAT LEAVE YOU IN?
...HUH ...?
ONCE I KNOW THE ENEMY'S SHAPE...
...IT'S A LOT EASIER TO PREDICT HIS MOVEMENT.
HE'S CONTINU-ING...
...HIS LECTURE FROM BEFORE!

IS THAT REALLY IMPORTANT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
OF COURSE, I'VE NEVER GONE UP AGAINST ANYTHING QUITE LIKE THIS.
SINCE IT'S FLYING WITH A ROTOR, ALL IT CAN DO IS APPROACH AND SLICE.
SAME REASON A HELICOPTER ALWAYS FLIES LEANING FORWARD.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE. CAN YOU RUN?
TA (TMP)
TA
I'M FINE!
IT'S COMING!

OKAY!
FORGET ABOUT SAFETY— FIND ME A ROUTE WITH THE LEAST CHANCE OF RUNNING INTO ANYONE.
CAN'T LET ANY CIVILIANS GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS.

OH, NOTHING THAT DRAMATIC. BUT SHE COULD WIN JACKPOTS ALL IN A ROW.
SHE ALWAYS KNEW WHEN AN EARTH-QUAKE WAS COMING.
...SHE CAN... SEE THE FUTURE?
...
...
A-AND SHE CERTAINLY DIDN'T KNOW EVERYTHING THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
BUT SHE'S A SHARP GIRL, THAT'S FOR SURE.
IT ALL CONNECTS... IF THIS IS TRUE, THE PICTURE'S STARTING TO BECOME CLEARER.

IF HARUKA TOOYAMA'S AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS PSYCHIC WHO CAN SEE THE FUTURE...

...IT CERTAINLY EXPLAINS WHY THEY'D BE AFTER HER!

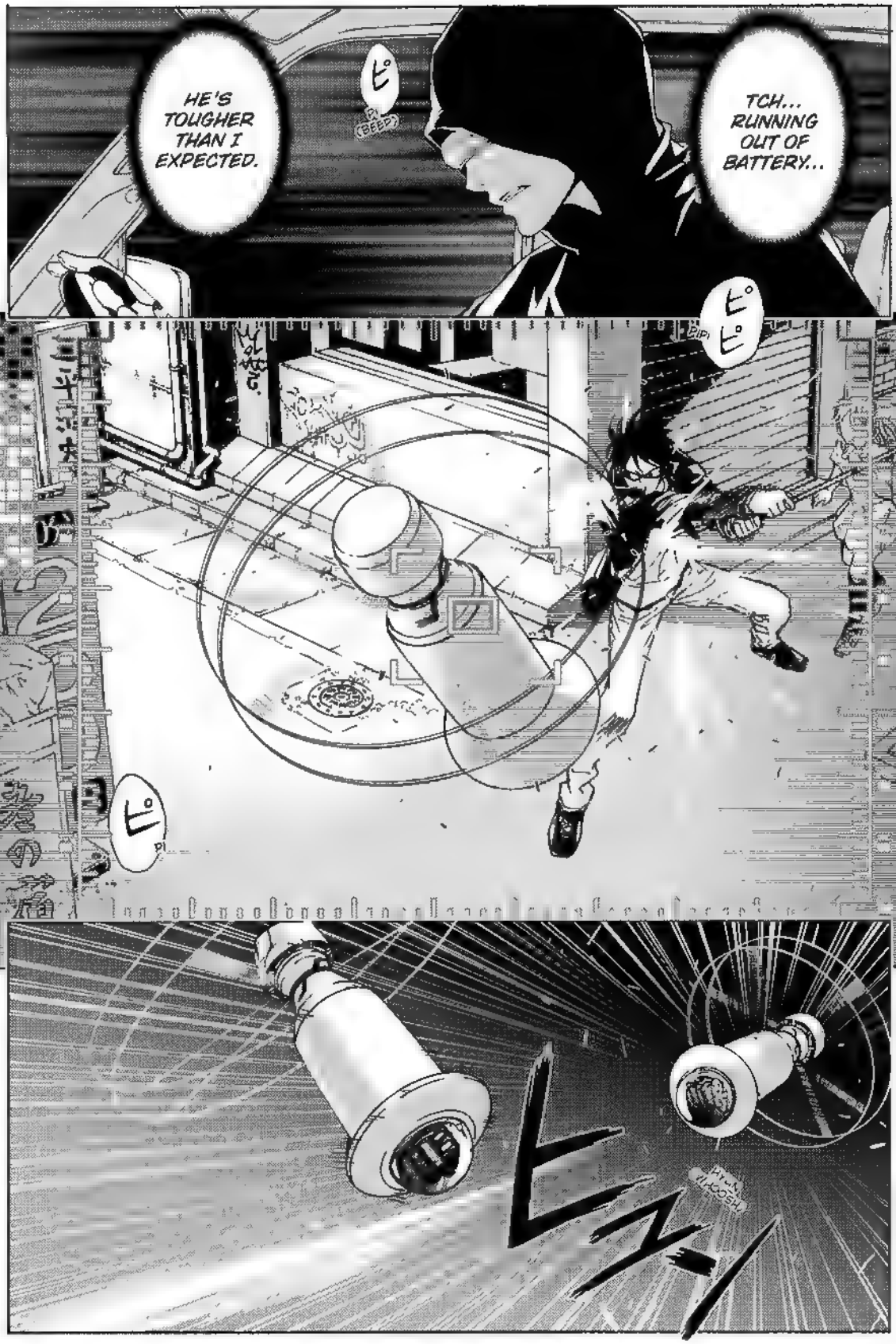
ピッ (BEEP)

E 13% F

H M S

01 : 10 : 17

ピッ


HE'S TOUGHER THAN I EXPECTED.
ピ (BEEP)
TCH... RUNNING OUT OF BATTERY...
ピピ (PIPI)
ピ (PI)
ヒュー
HSSSH

ピ
PI
...I'VE GOT A TRAP SET TO DEAL WITH HIM...
KYU (SPIN)
ピ
PI
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.
SHOULD I DRAW HIM OUT AND FINISH HIM LIKE I PLANNED?
repatriate
—RETURN—
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT I WORE HIM OUT.
BLINK (WINK)
ピ
PI

DOSA (THUD)
HAAH!
HAAH!
BUY-ING... TIME?
THAT'S RIGHT.
MAMORU-SAN!
HAAH!
HFF!
SO THAT'S ALL THE TIME I COULD BUY.

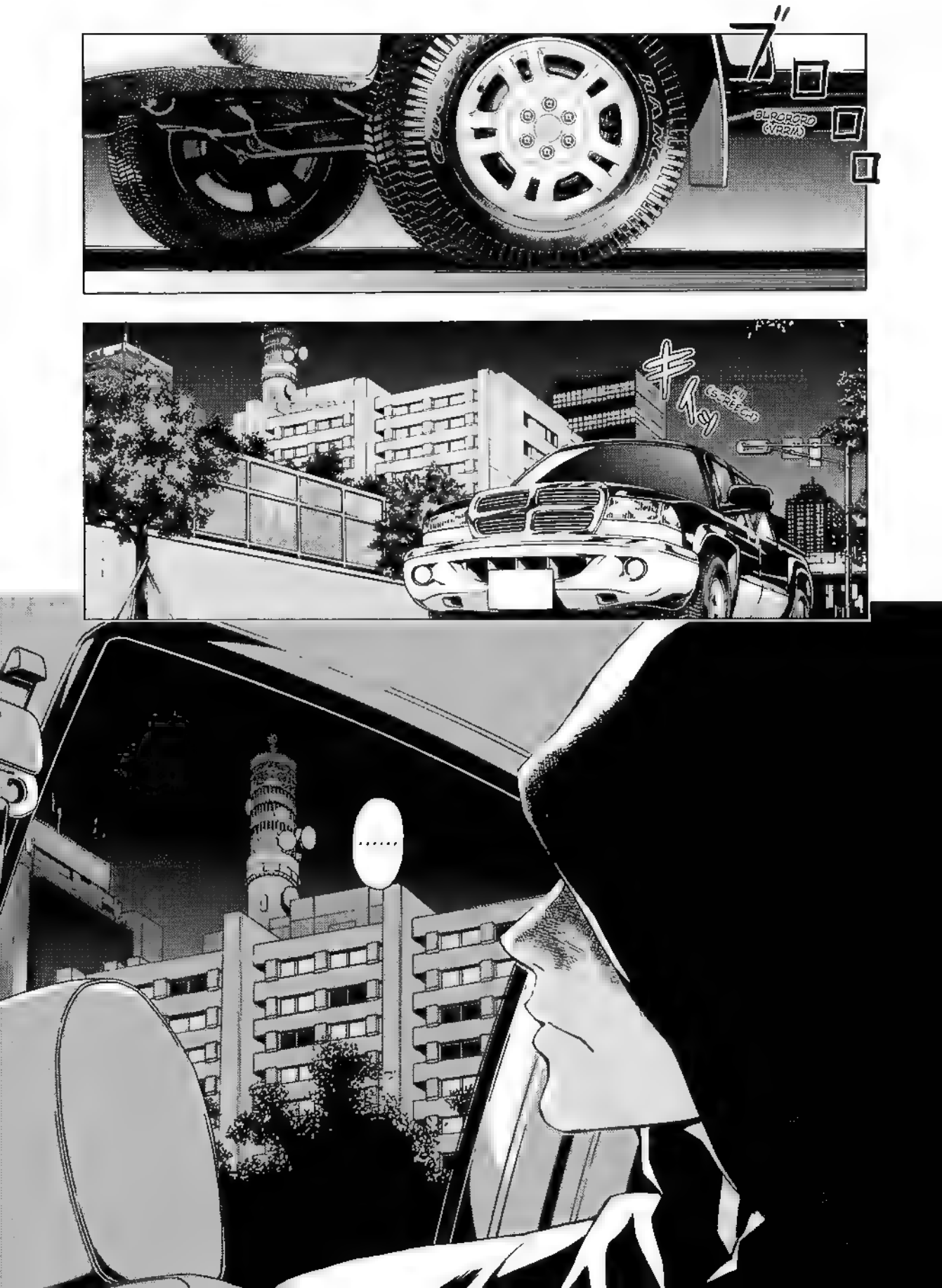
...
UM
...
WHAT?
HOW DO YOU AVOID SOMEONE YOU CAN'T SEE?
THE TIME I DREW THE ENEMY AWAY FROM THE SCENE...
...SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT IGAWA AND SIERRA SOME BREATHING ROOM.
THOSE MACHINES WERE CLEARLY REGULATED TO CONTROL TURBULENCE ON THEIR SPY ROUNDS...
...BUT I COULD STILL TELL THEY WERE COMING.
THE "WIND."
WIND?

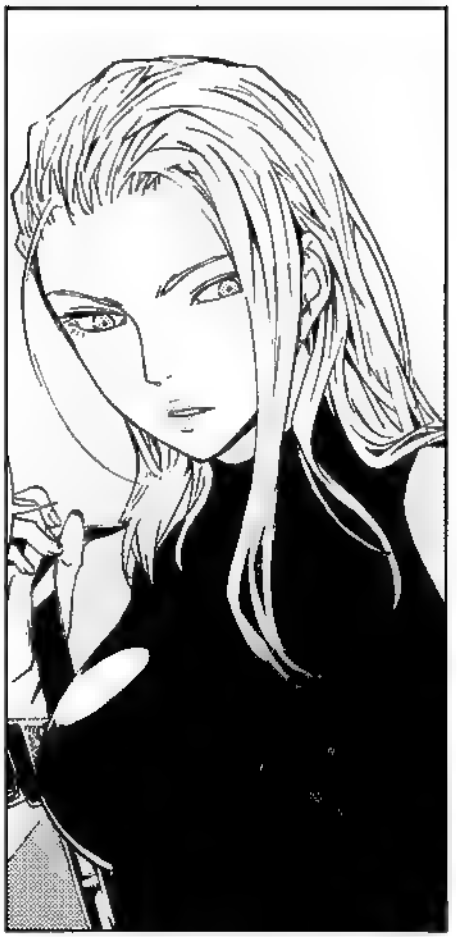
I CAN FEEL THE AIR BEING SUCKED INTO THE ROTORS.
AND BEYOND THAT, THE BLIND FIND THEIR OTHER SENSES ARE HEIGHTENED.
スッ
SU (SSK)
2F
...
OUR ENEMY'S A PRO.
LET'S GO...
KO (TAK)
コッ
KO
コッ
WC
BUT... WE'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND THIS WHOLE TIME...AND FIGHTING...

I'M NOT GOING TO HARM THE INNOCENT IN MY WORK...
...BUT I'LL KILL AS MANY AS I NEED TO FOR MY OBJEC-TIVE.
WE'VE ONLY GOT AN HOUR LEFT. LET'S GO.
SA (SHHP)

RIKIN

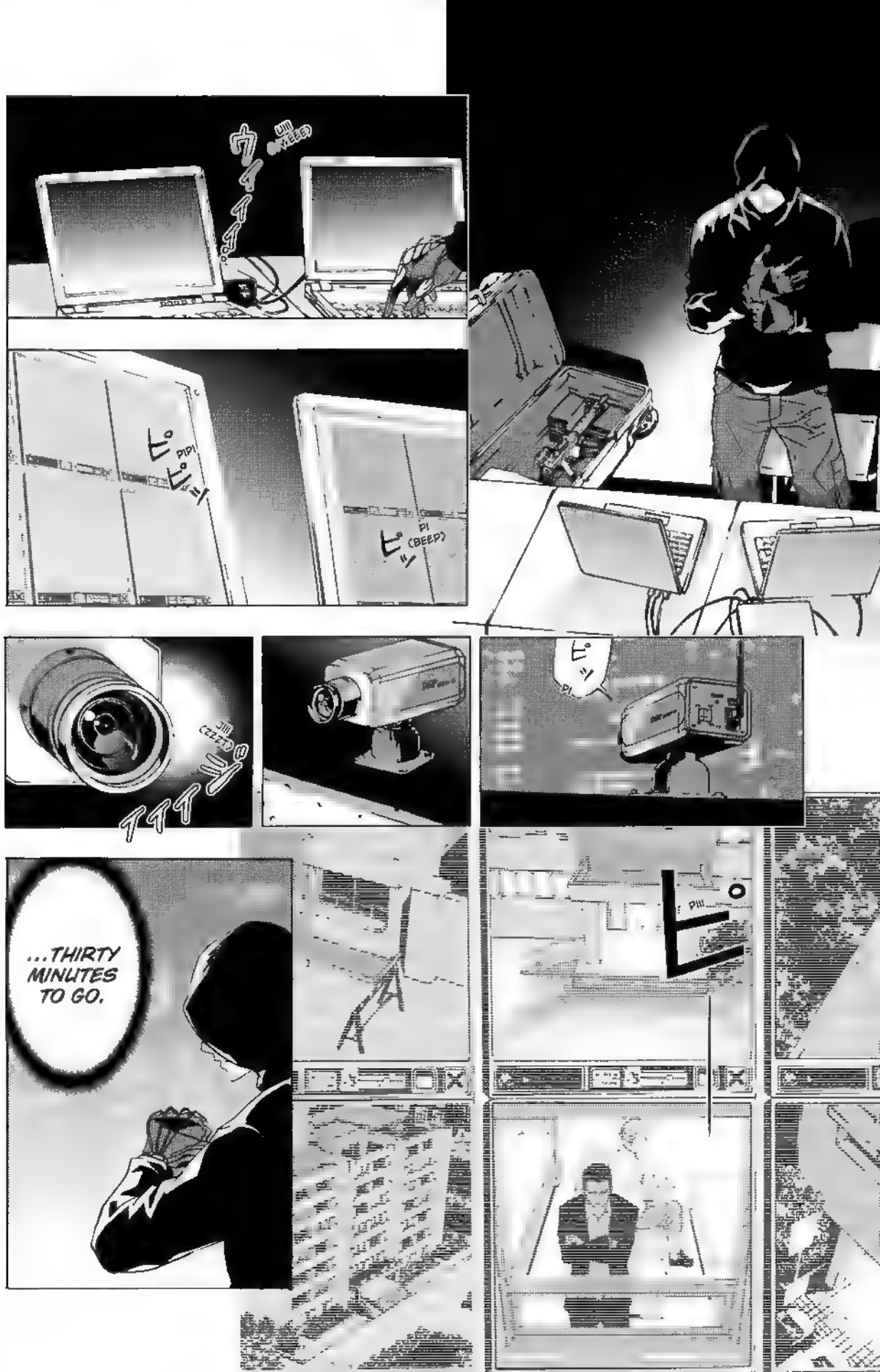
KO (TAK)
KATA
KATA (TAP)
KATA
KATA
KO

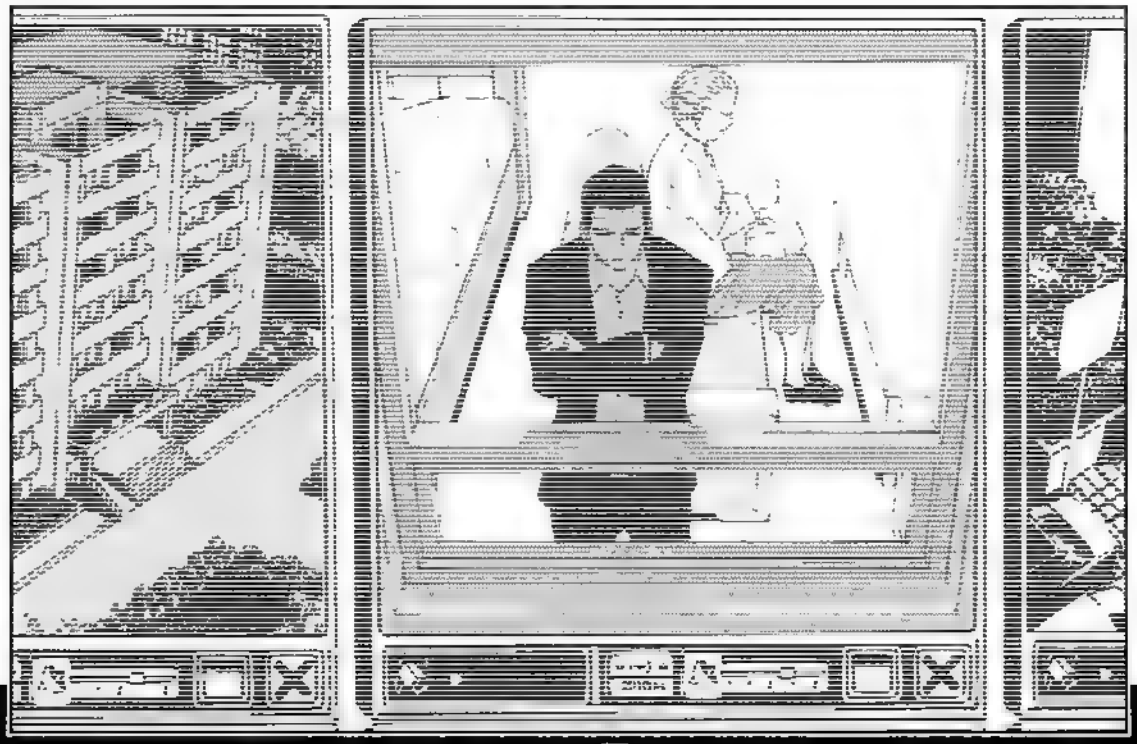

7"
BLACKBIRD (YARIS)
キィッ
(SCREECH)
……



Until
Death
do us
Part

ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
トン
TO (THUMP)

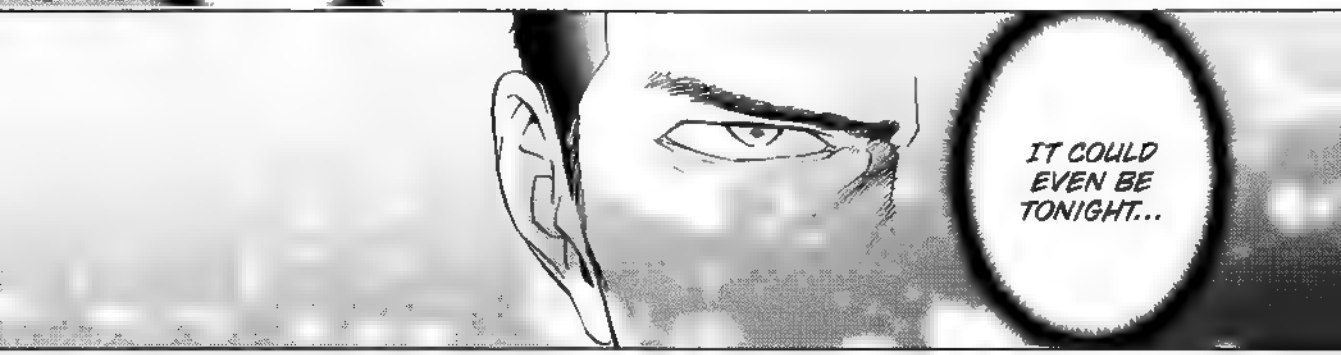

ウィィィ
(BEEP)
ピピッ
PIPI
ピー
PI
(BEEP)
ジジ
(ZZZT)
ピー
PI
...THIRTY MINUTES TO GO.
PIII



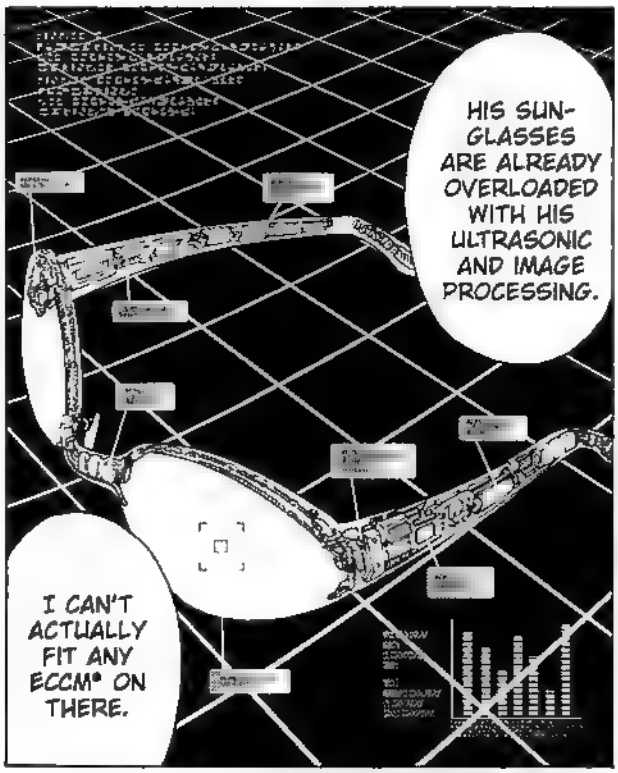
chapter 35

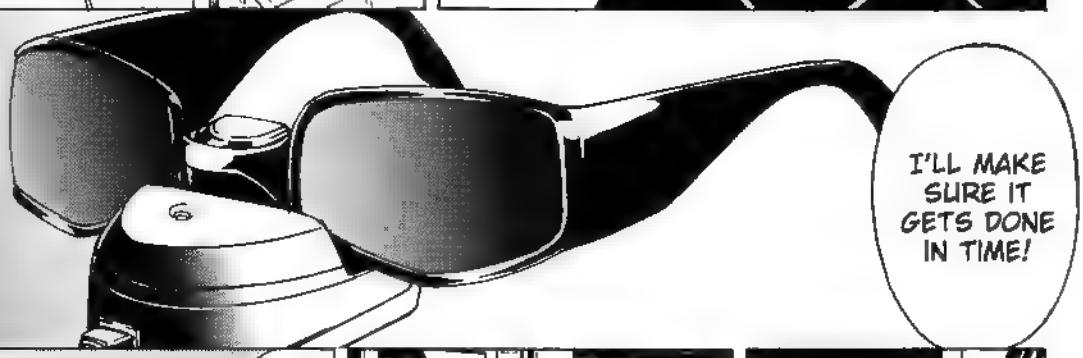
IF HARUKA TOOYAMA REALLY DOES HAVE PRECOGNI-TION...
...IT COULD EXPLAIN WHY HER KIDNAPPERS NEEDED SUCH AN ELABORATE, LARGE-SCALE SIEGE TO ABDUCT HER...
WAIT... HOW THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO STRATEGIZE AGAINST SUPER-NATURAL POWERS!?
TSK!
SO HOW DOES ONE CATCH A PERSON WHO CAN SEE THE FUTURE?
NO, NOT RAN ACROSS. INTEN-TIONALLY CROSSED HIS PATH.
AND THEN SHE RAN ACROSS MAMORU HIJIKATA.

THE ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE...
...IS THAT FANG INTENDS TO CATCH HARUKA TOOYAMA USING THIS WOMAN AS BAIT.


IT COULD EVEN BE TONIGHT...

IN FACT, UNDER JAMMING THIS STRONG, WE BASICALLY CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH THEM UNLESS IT'S FACE-TO-FACE.
KATA
NOPE.
KATA (TAP)
Zzt... Have you reached Mamoru yet!?
Zshk...





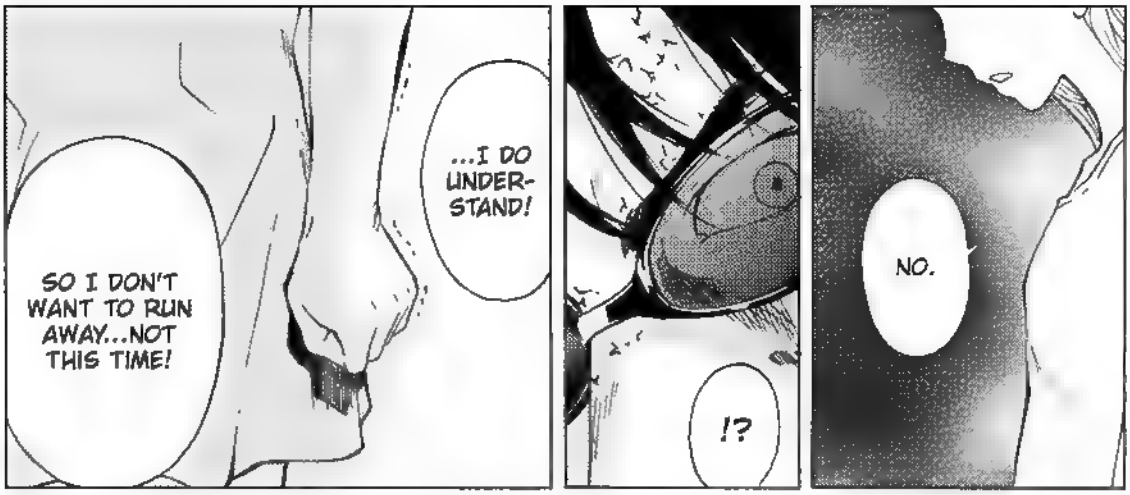
*ELECTRONIC COUNTER-COUNTERMEASURES

OH NO...
THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER OR NOT IGAWA CAN USE THE TIME WE BOUGHT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
...
Zrt... zshk ...
DON'T BOTHER. WE'RE PROBABLY BEING JAMMED.
THE ENEMY CALLED US HERE—HE'S BOUND TO HAVE A TRAP SET UP.
IT'S DANGER-OUS.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE THIS TIME.
D-DON'T GO!
GVJ (GRAB)
ギュッ

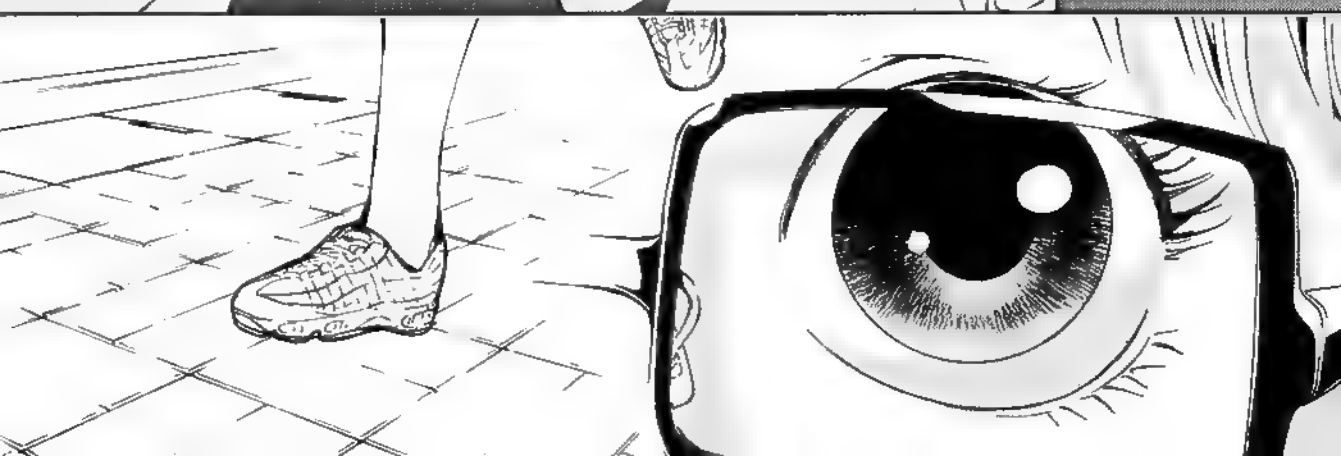
スチャ
SUCHA (CLICK)
A SWORD DULLED BY USE. CUT OFF FROM OUR SUPPORT.
WELL, SURE...
AN INVISIBLE ENEMY.
LOST STAMINA.
...
...THE ODDS SOUND PRETTY BAD WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
BYUUOO (WHOOSH)
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
BUT YOU SEE...

BITA (STOP)
...I'M AN ANTISOCIAL ASSHOLE WHO SPENDS EVERY WAKING MINUTE THINKING ABOUT HOW TO USE THIS THING.

BUT HOW DOES A BLIND IDIOT WITH NO TALENT FOR ANYTHING BUT THE SWORD GET BY IN MODERN SOCIETY?
HYUN (SWISH)
ヒュン
HUH !?
SU (SSK)
スッ
NOT TO BRAG, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT-DONE WITH THIS BLADE IN MY HAND.
YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT OLD ENOUGH TO GET IT YET.
JUST ASSUME YOU'RE STUCK WITH A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS FOR NOW.
FIGHTING WITH ALL MY POWER IS MY REASON FOR LIVING.
I CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY FROM THIS ONE.
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャッ


SO I DON'T WANT TO RUN AWAY...NOT THIS TIME!
...I DO UNDER-STAND!
!?
NO.

I'LL GO WITH YOU!!



IF I HADN'T RUN... DAD AND MOM MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE!

...
IF I'D BEEN MORE LIKE MAMORU-SAN!

IF I SURVIVE THIS, STOP ACTING SO POLITE AND SWEET, LIKE YOU'RE A CAT I'VE BEEN KEEPING.
I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO LIVE AROUND A BUNCH OF ADULTS, BUT I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LIKE.

...I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT CAN A MIDDLE SCHOOLER DO, EVEN IF SHE CAN SEE THE FUTURE?

B-BUT—
MAKE ME A PROMISE.

YOU'RE JUST A BRATTY LITTLE GIRL!
!

まんが
1時間
400円
...UH... OKAY...
TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR OUR ENEMY TO ACT.
The lights around here will go out.
BOSO (MUTTER)

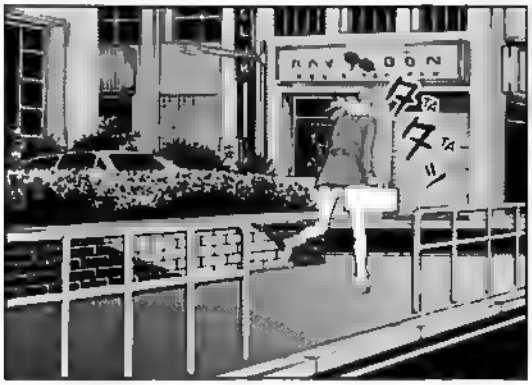
...HERE HE COMES...
HUH?
!?
BIKI-NCH

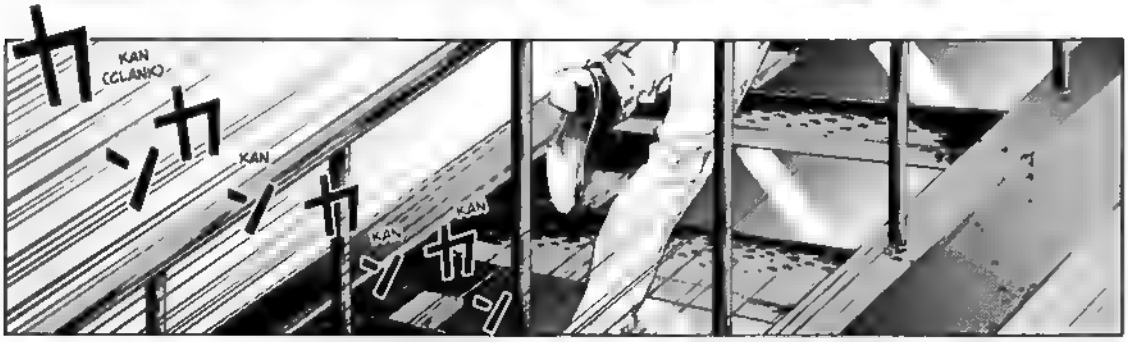
TA (STMP)
TA
BUT WE CAN PLAY MIND GAMES OF OUR OWN.
YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S NOTHING BUT A DECOY.
DON'T BE MISLED.
KOKU (NOD)
HERE IT COMES!
THERE ARE FOUR OF THEM!
ROLL FORWARD !!
ZA- (ZSHH)
BULLIN (VWM)

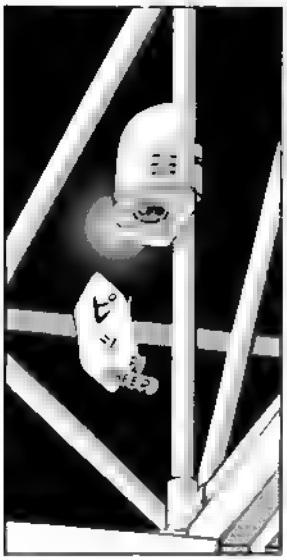
HYUN (SWISH)
ZUSA (SLIDE)
DAMMIT !!
TATA (TMP)
THIS WAY.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA

KATA
カタ
KATA
WHAT !?
KATA
カタ
KATA
カタ
KATA (TAP)
カタ

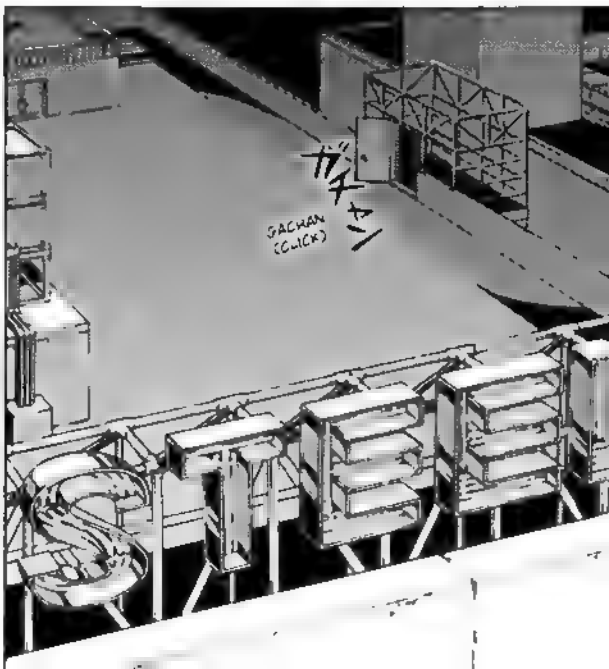
IT'S START-ING!


RAY-BON
タタタ
TA-TA-TA-

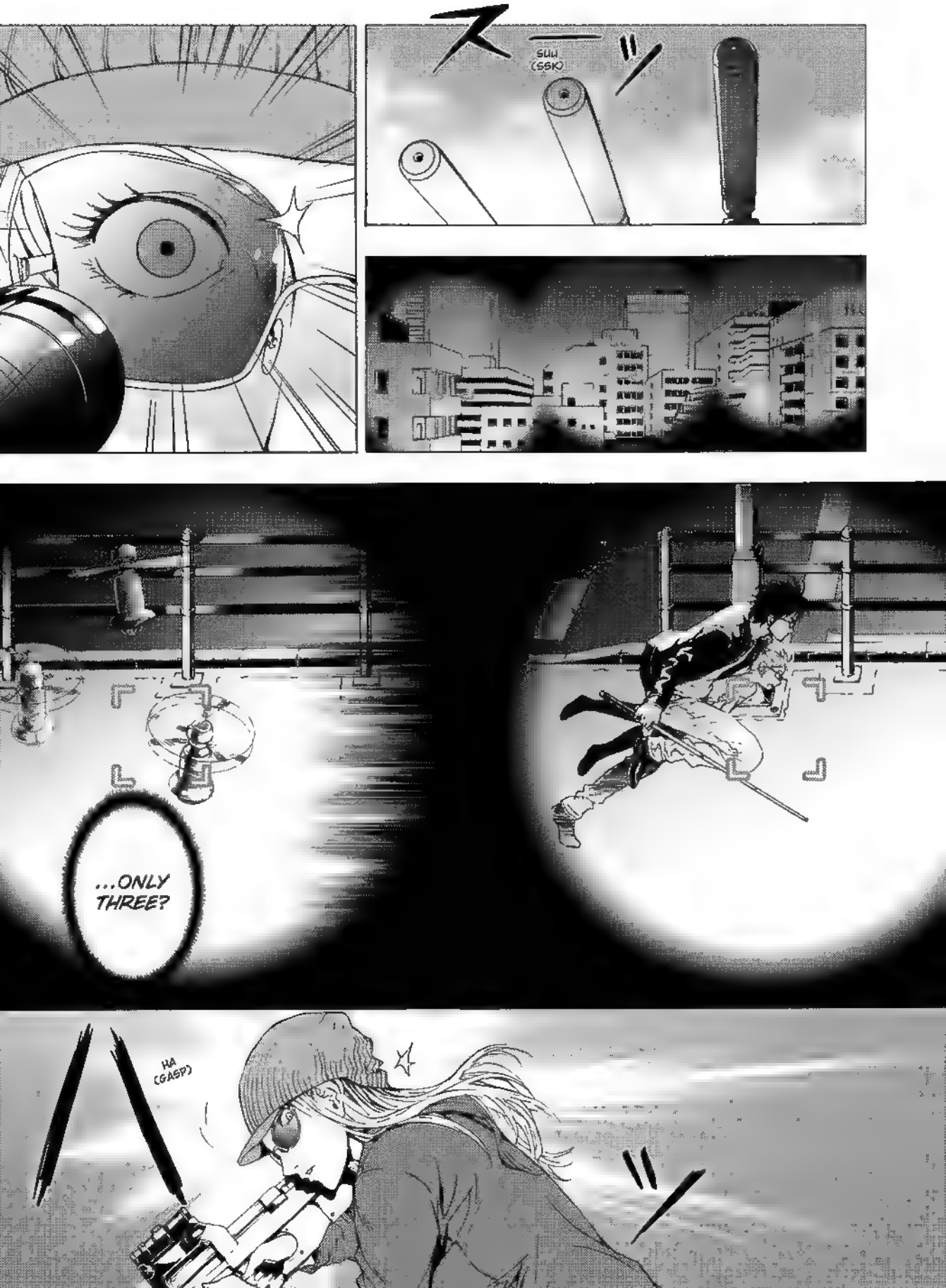

カンカンカンカン
KAN (CLANK)
KAN
KAN
KAN


ピッ

HFF!
HFF!

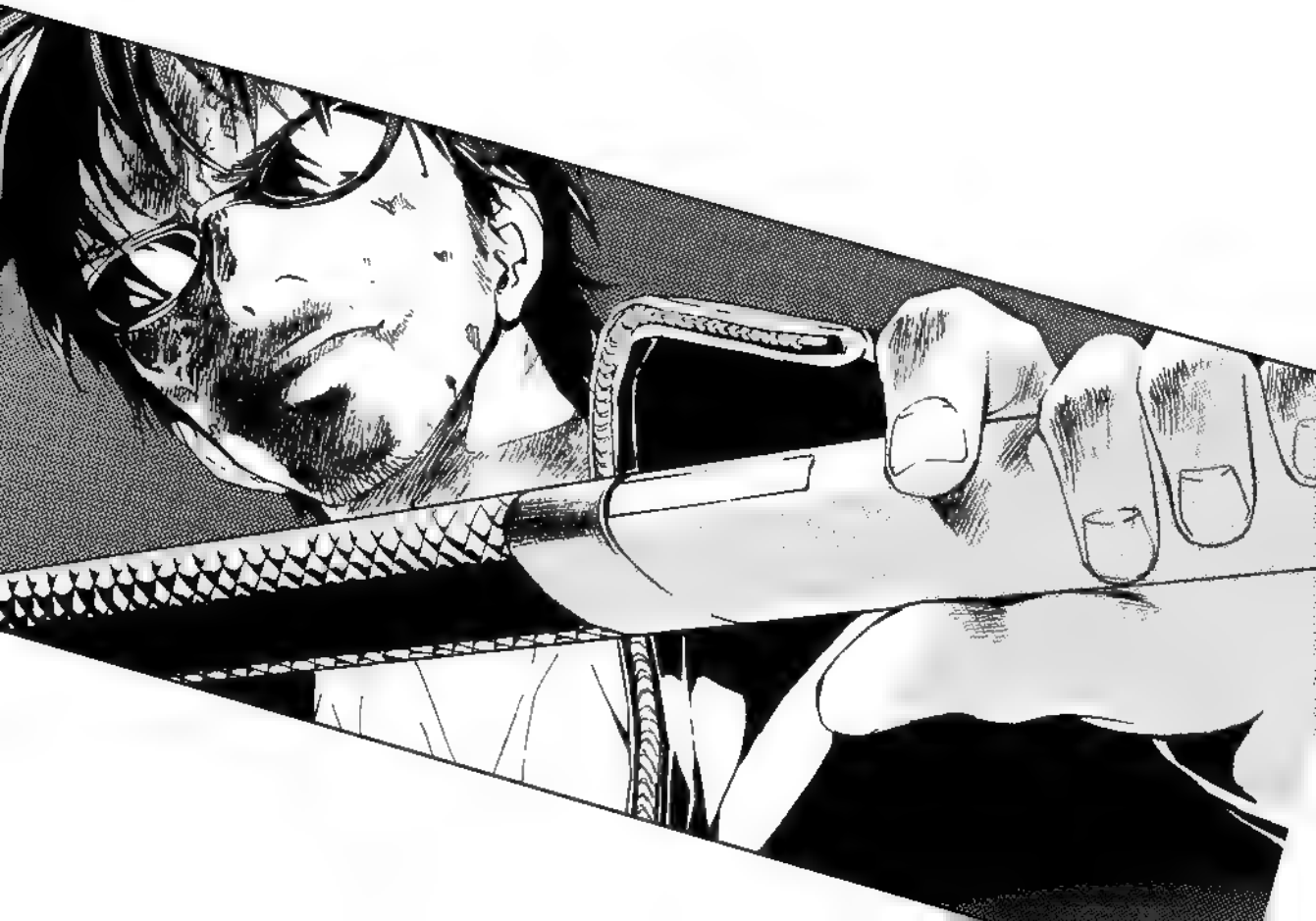

ガチャン
GACHAN (CLICK)

!!?
PII (BEEP)
ピー
《CAUTION》
intruder
PII
ピー
I COULDN'T GET A PROPER SNIPER RIFLE, BUT AT LEAST MY POSITION'S GOOD.
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
TA (TMP)
タタッ
TA
CHAKI (CH-CHK)


SUU (SSK)
...ONLY THREE?
HA (GASP)

!!
ズバッ
ナニソレ

!
OH NO!!



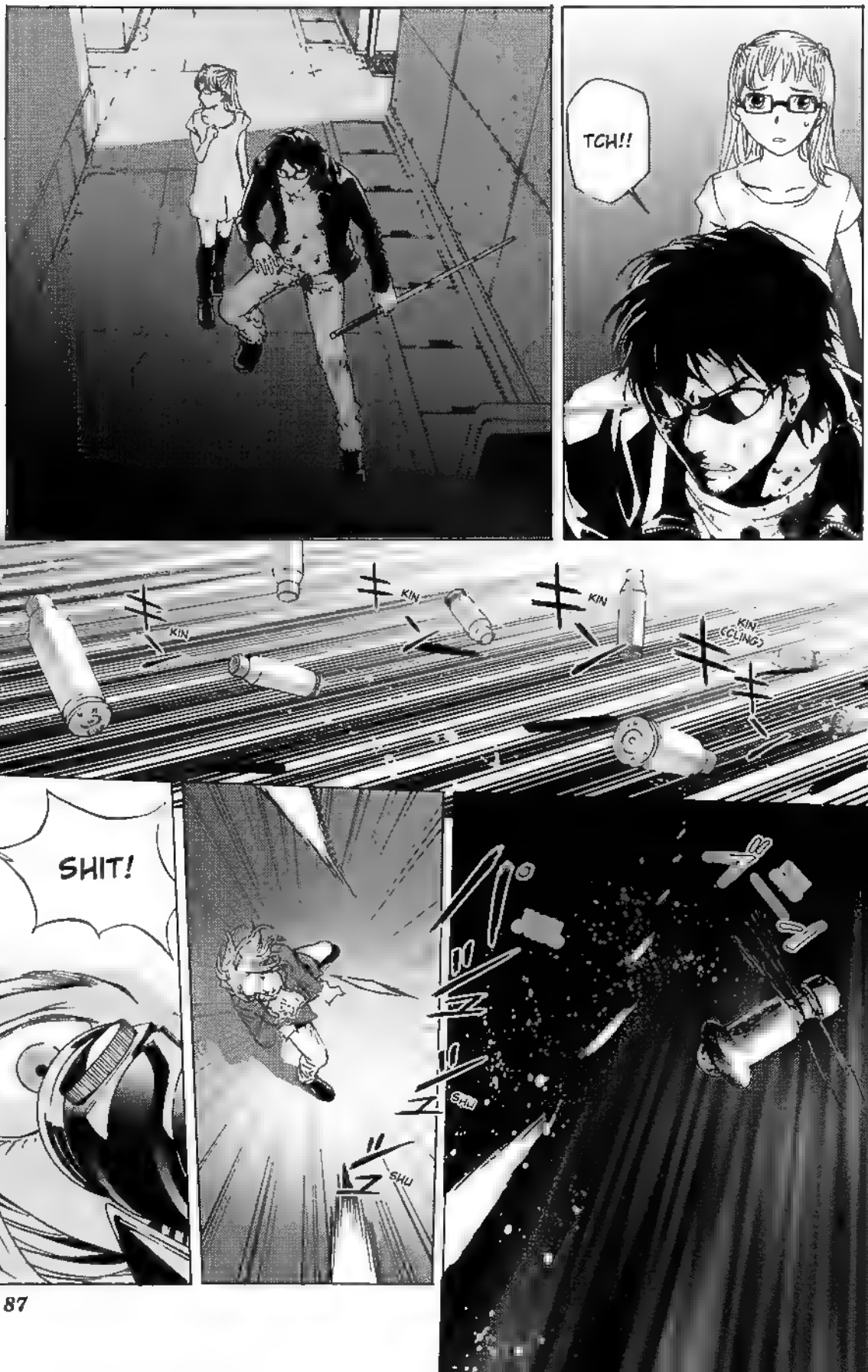
Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 36

BULIN (VMMM)
DA (LEAP)
JUMP TO THE LEFT!
WHA —!?
GURA (LURCH)
PIN (PING)
ピン

ガッ
GA (GRAB)
MA-MORU-SAN!
グイ
GUI (YANK)
ガガガ
(CAGGA GRSHK)

ZUBABA (SLICE)
FOCUS ON LOOKING FOR YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE, NOT THE WAY FOR ME TO AVOID ATTACKS!
IT'S ONLY THROW-ING ME OFF!!
NNH!
MAMORU-SAN!
YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AROUND EVERY WHICH WAY!
THERE ARE TRAPS ALL OVER THE PLACE!


TCH!!
KIN
KIN
KIN
KIN
(CLING)
SHIT!
SHU
SHU

GACHA (CLICK)
GAGAGA (GSSHK)
RGH!
MY ARMOR-PIERCING ROUNDS DON'T DO SHIT!
AND MAMORU WAS FIGHTING OFF SEVERAL OF THESE AT ONCE!?
GASHA (KSHK)
HOW MANY MINUTES CAN YOU HOLD OUT?
HA-HA-HA!
KLIK FNIP

GA (DRATTA)
GAGA
BA (LEAP)
I'M FINE! IT CAN'T PACK THAT MANY BULLETS IN ORDER TO STAY AIR-BORNE...
THIS FIRE-POWER WON'T LAST!

DASHU
SHU
SHU
AS LONG AS I'VE GOT IT IN MY SIGHTS, THE ROTOR ATTACK'S THE ONLY THING TO WATCH OUT FOR!

パシュ
PASHU (P.SHOO)
SHU
SHU

THIS GUY'S REALLY GOT IT IN FOR US...

BUSHU (SMASH)

BUWA (WHOOSH)
SHAAA (FSHH)
!!

THERE !!
GA (WHAM)
GUKAKAKAKA (GRRK)

ピー
PII (BEEP)
!!
ピー
PII
GAGA (DSHH)
GAGA
GYA (SCRAPE)
GYA
GYA
ピー
PII
MY BULLET-DEFLECTING HYBRID ARMOR!?
DE-STROYED !?
ピー
PII
KATA
KATA
KATA (TAP)
KATA
KATA
WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS!?

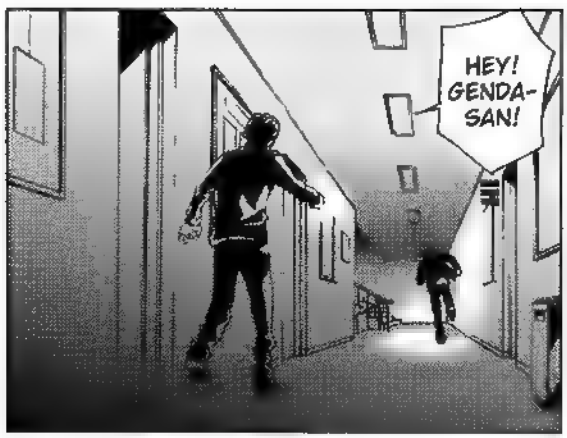
WATCH OUT!
GYAGYA (SKIIIID)
KAKAN (CLANG)
BUBUN (VRRT)
GACHI (CLICK)
CAN'T CUT ANYMORE... THE MONO-LAYER'S ALMOST GONE.
DON (BOOM)

I-I DON'T KNOW.
THE SUPER-VISOR'S GONE TO SEE WHAT THE DEAL IS.
WHERE'S THE EMER-GENCY POWER!?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

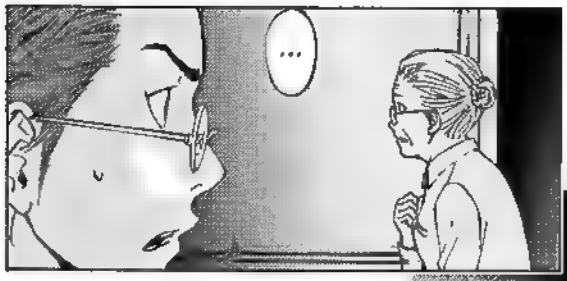
PIKI (CRAK)
AAAH!

...WHAT IS THIS ...!?

!?


HEY! GENDA-SAN!

!?
WATCH HER!
TA (DASH)


...

IS THIS OLD LADY THE ONE THEY'RE AFTER?
DOESN'T THAT MEAN I'M IN DANGER IF I STAY WITH HER ...?

ZA (ZSH)
HFF.
GOOO (WHOO)
HFF.
GOTCHA!
ピー
PII (BEEP)
projectile
... DIE ...

BEHIND YOU!
YOU OKAY?
BON (TNK)

FUCK!

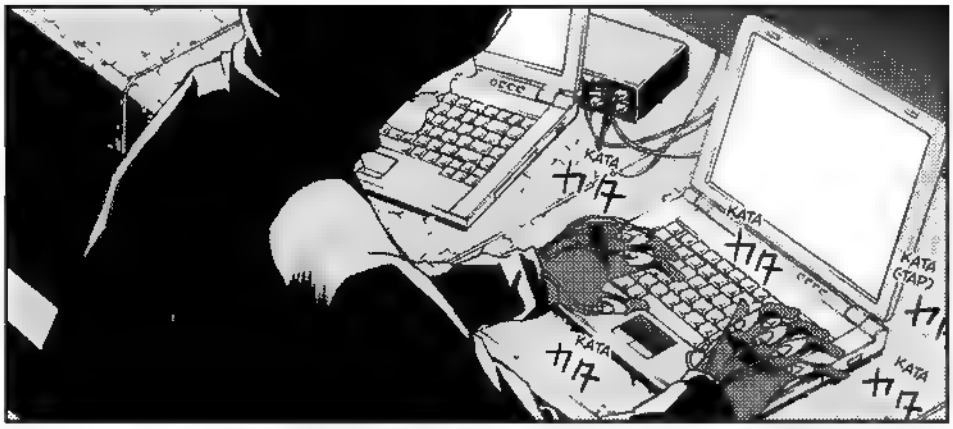
!!

FUCK!

HE'S A MONSTER ...
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?
TURUS WAS RIGHT: I UNDER-ESTIMATED THIS MAN.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SOMEONE BLOCKING A GRENADE BLAST BY SHOVING IT UNDER-GROUND...
DADA (DASH)
HEY! IS SOMEONE THERE!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
!?
OVER THERE!
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA

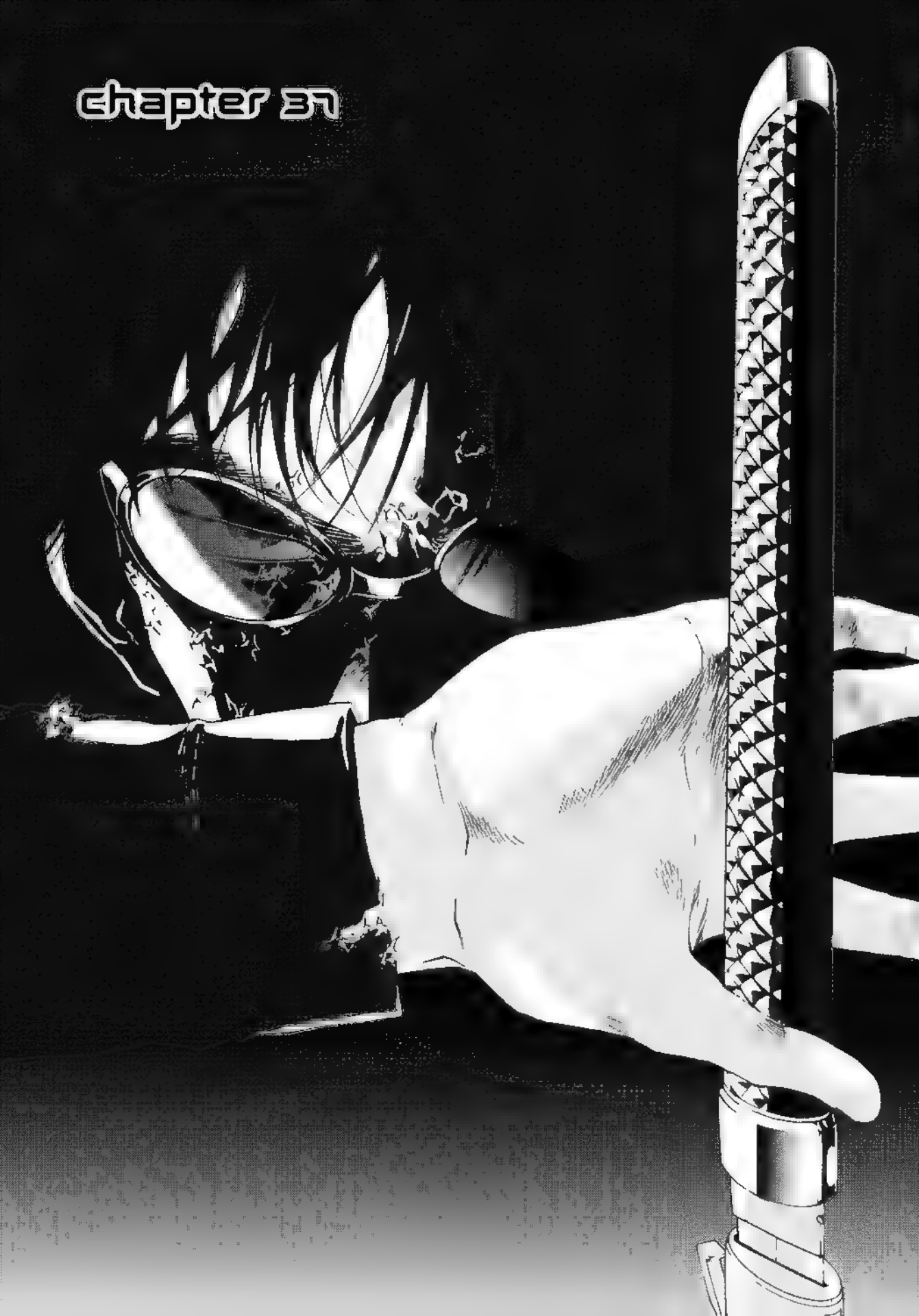
HUH?
GYAA!
AAAGH!
!!
BUUN
AAAH!

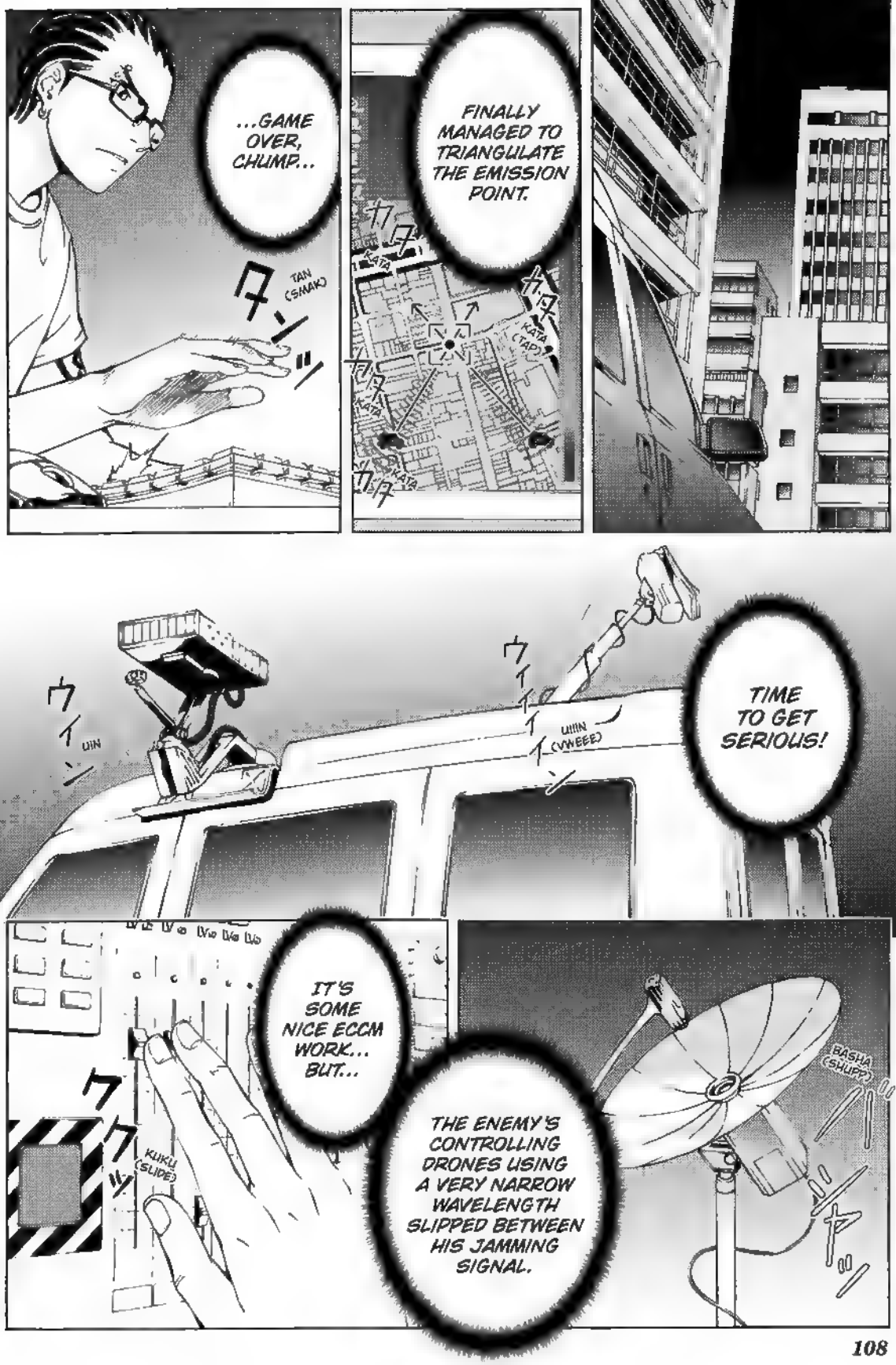
...FILTHY BASTARD ...
BUROROORO (VROOM)
KI (SCREEK)
...I'VE GOTCHA NOW...


KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA
(TAP)

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 37




...GAME OVER, CHUMP...
TAN (SMAK)
FINALLY MANAGED TO TRIANGULATE THE EMISSION POINT.
KATA (TAP)
TIME TO GET SERIOUS!
UIIN
UIIIN (WHEEE)
IT'S SOME NICE ECCM WORK... BUT...
KLIKU (SLIDE)
THE ENEMY'S CONTROLLING DRONES USING A VERY NARROW WAVELENGTH SLIPPED BETWEEN HIS JAMMING SIGNAL.
BASHA (SHUPP)

KACHI (POP)
...I'M ABOUT TO SHUT OUT YOUR SIGNAL.
PI (BEEP)
VUON (WHOOM)
AS IF FANG HAS EVER SPARED A SECOND THOUGHT FOR ME.
STARTIN' A SIGNAL FIGHT WITH ME WAS YOUR WORST MISTAKE, BITCH!

MA-
MORU-
SAN!
!?
HUH?
YURA
KAKAN
(CLANG)
TATA
(TMP)
BIJIN
(WMH)
THAT'S
IGAWA'S
INTERFER-
ENCE.

ウイイイン
(WIIN)
(VVIIEE)
HOW'S THAT!?
RIGHT AROUND THE EX-PLOSION ...
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'LL GET THIS.
BOFU (BMMP)

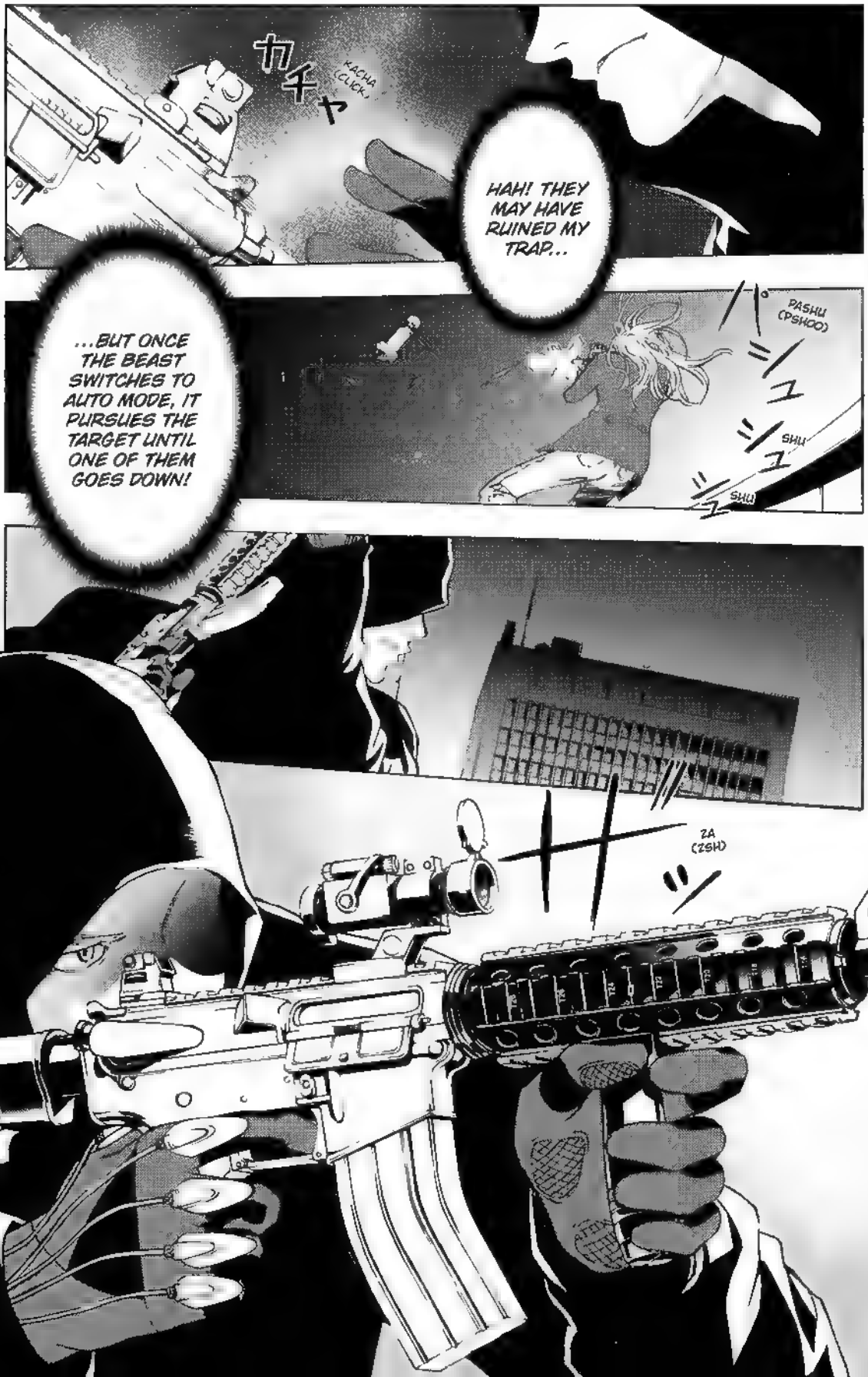
...THERE HE IS!!
!
ピー PII
ALERT
-Signal Lost-
ピー PII
WHAT'S THIS!?
ピー PII
ピー PII (BEEP)
ピー PII
ピー PII
...I'M BEING JAMMED ...

BO (WHAM)
PATA (THUMP)
DOGAGA (CLATTER)
DOGA (THUD)
...I MISSED ...

BA (EAP)
GA
GA
GA (BRAT-TA)
GASHA (KSHAK)
PASHU (PSHOO)
SHU
CHA (CHK)
ZUGAGA (OSH)

IDIOT... YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN A LONG-DISTANCE FIREFIGHT WITH THAT BEEFED-UP PISTOL!?
FUWA (WHOOSH)
!?

BABABA (WHOOSH)
GAKIN (CRACK)
RRGH!
!?
DO (THUD)


カチャ
KACHA (CLICK)
HAH! THEY MAY HAVE RUINED MY TRAP...
...BUT ONCE THE BEAST SWITCHES TO AUTO MODE, IT PURSUES THE TARGET UNTIL ONE OF THEM GOES DOWN!
PASHU (PSHOO)
SHU
SHU
ZA (ZSH)

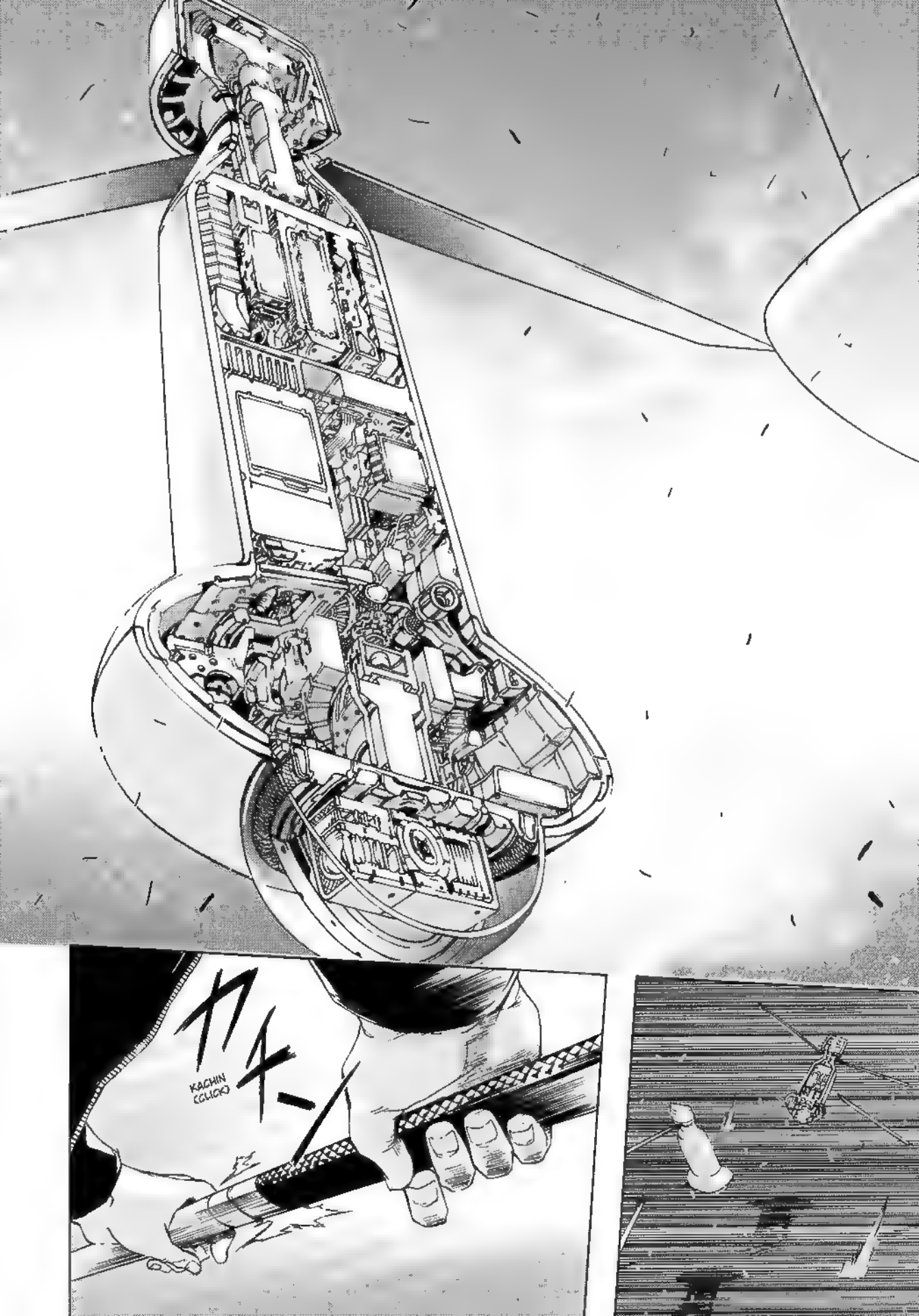
HMM!?
HYUUUUU (WHOOSH)
TA (TOSS)
HUH?
...IS THAT FROM IGAWA!?
KAN (CLANG)

BUUN (VWW)
DADA (DASH)
HYUON (SWISH)
ZUZAA (SLIDE)
KASHU (CLICK)

MAMORU-SAN!!
5F

GACHA
CLICK
SNAP

カチーン
KACHIN (CLICK)


カチーン
KACHIN
(CLICK)

GRRRRRRR
(GRAAAAH)
...THAT'S THE ENEMY... AND SIERRA, I GUESS...?

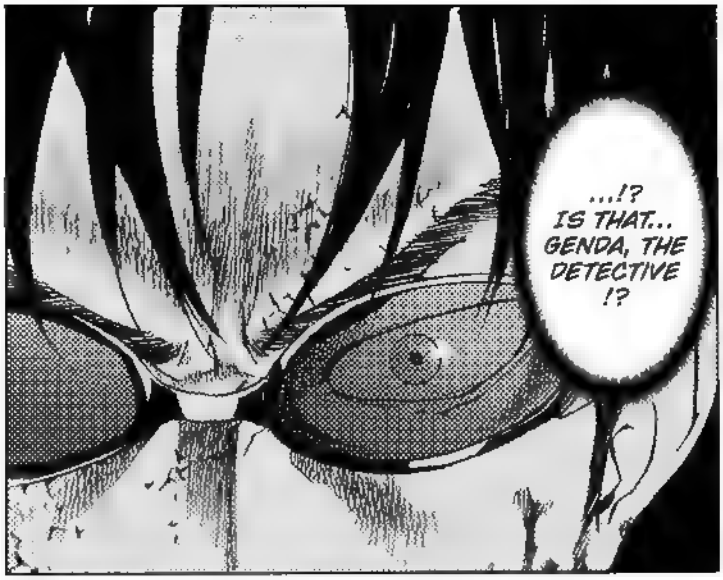
GASHA (CLICK)
I can't speak to you due to signal jamming.
PI (BEEP)
This is a record-ing.
DON
DON (BLAM)
I whipped up a program on those glasses that should ran-domize the ultrasonic wavelengths, preventing them from being neutralized.
CHUN (TING)
They're not perfect, but you should be able to see with them.

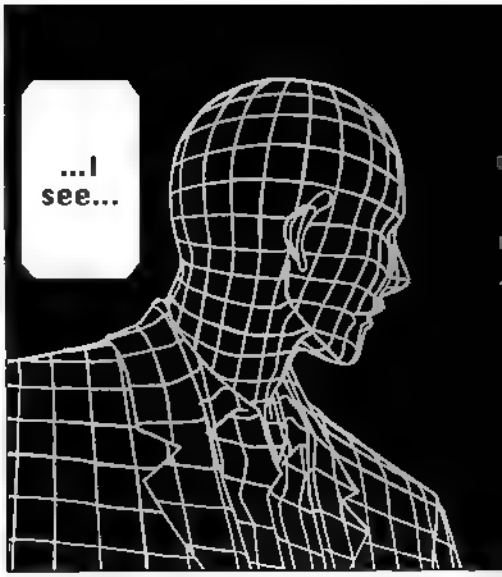
I'll mark the enemy's location, so get these drones cleaned up stat.
...SOME OF YOUR BEST WORK YET... IGAWA...
パラ
PARA
パラ
PARA (SPRINKLE)
カン
KAN (CLANK)

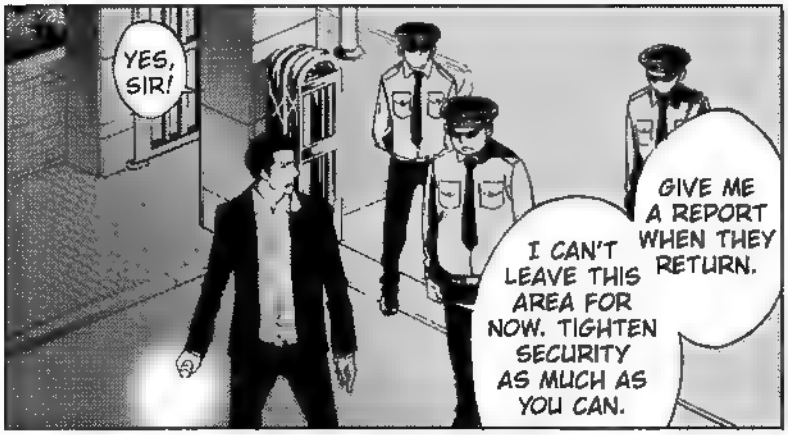
BUT SIERRA-SAN'S IN TROUBLE TOO!
GUI (TUG)
BUT WE'RE GOING THIS WAY.
THE TOP PRIORITY NOW IS PROTECTING CIVILIANS.
AS LONG AS YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S A TARGET AND REMAINS IN DANGER, SHE COMES BEFORE SIERRA.
...

...VOLUME UP...
?
What's going on?
There are no lights !?
.....
.....
... that.
Police chief wants a full inspection.

HEY!
WHAT DIRECTION DID THAT BLAST COME FROM!?
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
IT WAS FROM OVER THERE.
WE'VE ALREADY GOT THREE MEN INVESTIGATING.


...!? IS THAT... GENDA, THE DETECTIVE !?

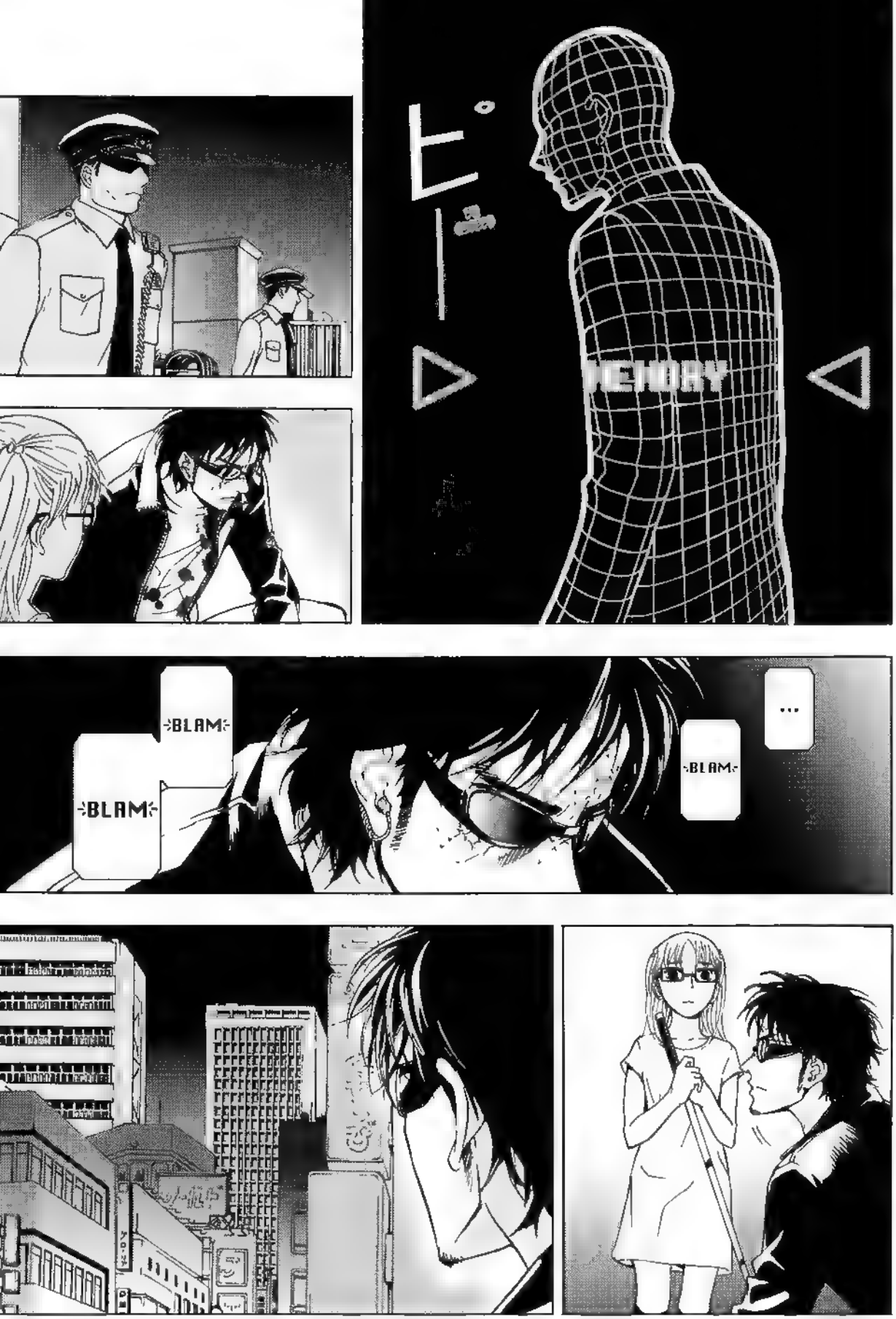

...I see...


YES, SIR!
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS AREA FOR NOW. TIGHTEN SECURITY AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.
GIVE ME A REPORT WHEN THEY RETURN.

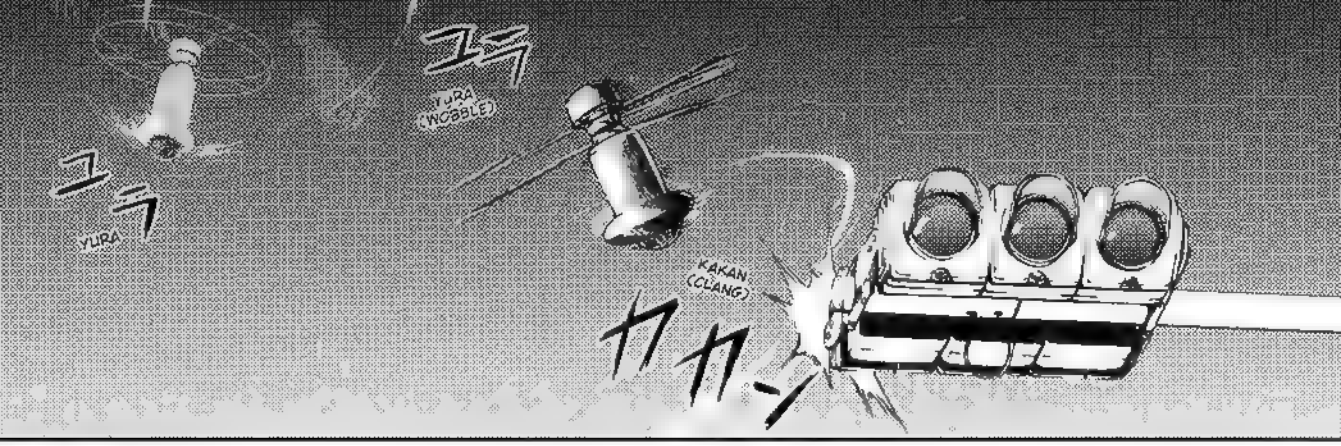
...

MEMORY.

THIS SITUATION IS LIFE AND DEATH. BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.

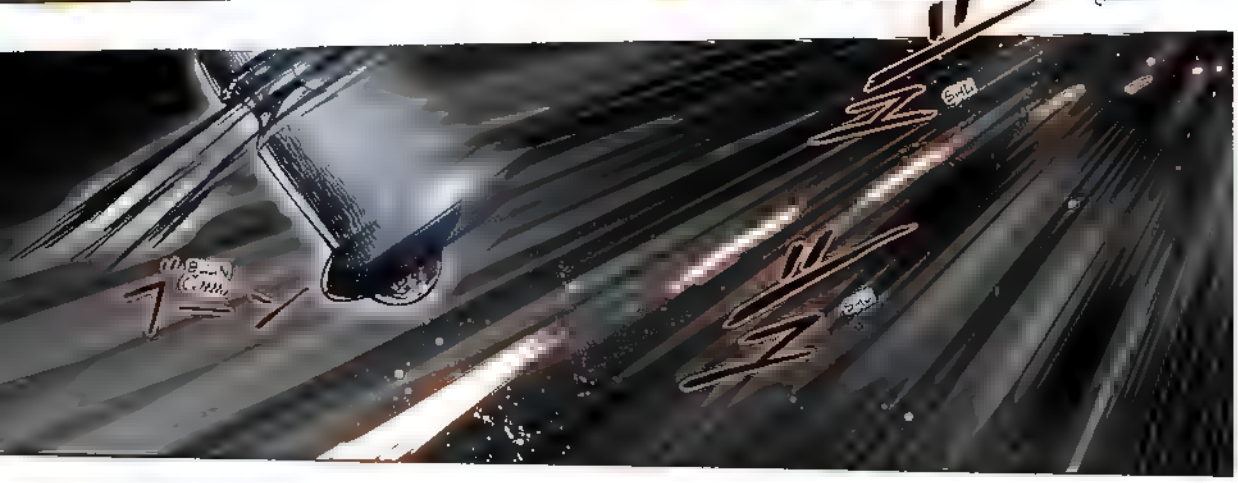

MEMORY
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
...

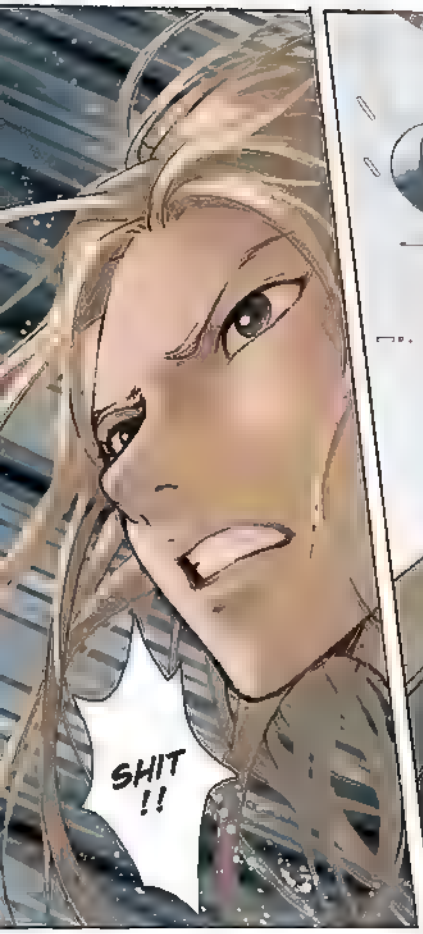
SIERRA...
...GUN-SHOTS...?
UM...
LET'S GO...
...
I... CAN'T SEE HER...
!?

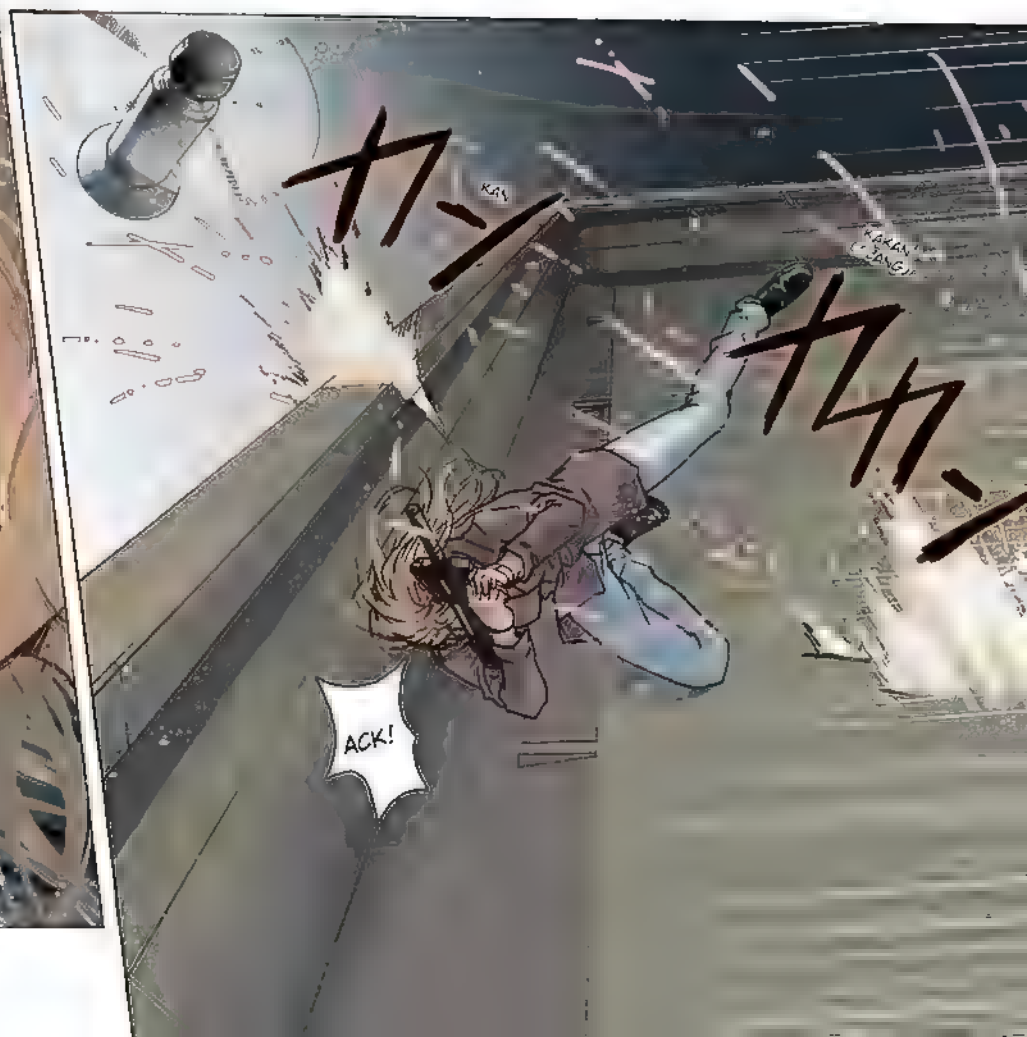

ユラ
YURA
ユラ
YURA
(WOBBLE)
カカン
KAKAN
(CLANG)

Until
Death
do us
Part

PASHU
(PSHOO)


SHU


SHIT
!!


KAN
KAKAN
(CLANG)
ACK!

chapter 38

chapter 38

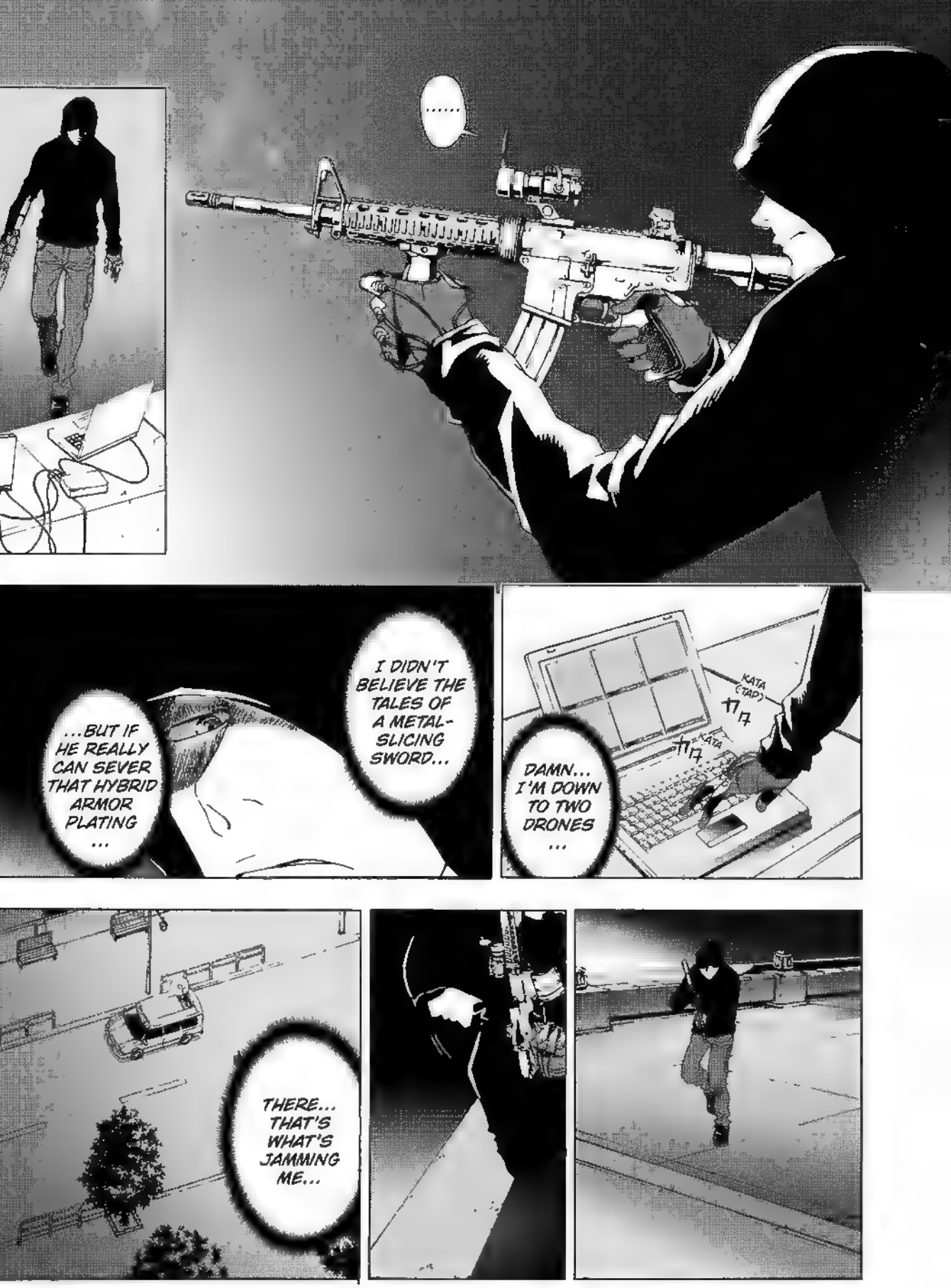
Until
Death
do us
Part

C'MON, MAMORU. DON'T LET ALL MY HARD WORK GO TO WASTE.
PII
ピ
PII (BEEP)
ピ
SIGH ...
GO (GONK)
ゴ
PII
ピ
PII
ピ
!?
ガ
GATA (THUMP)
WHAT !?
THE DATA SAID THOSE THINGS COULDN'T ACT AUTONO-MOUSLY!!

Iga-wa-san!
HUH?
I SEE.
WAS I THE ONE UNDER-ESTIMATING HIM!?
GRI (GRIT)
DID HE ENTIRELY REWRITE THE OS!?
KATA (TAP)
KATA
KATA
KATA
HARU-KA!?
IF YOU'RE ON THE RADIO SIGNAL, YOU MUST BE CLOSE!
I'll be there in a second.
!
PUSHU (PSHH)
KACHI (CLICK)
IT'S DANGER-OUS FOR HER TO BE ALONE!

HFF
HFF
WHY AREN'T YOU WITH MAMORU!?
GACHA (THUMP)
HE SAID HE WOULD PROTECT GRANDMA FOR ME.
REMEMBER, THE ENEMY WANTS YOU! WHY DID YOU SPLIT UP!?
BUT WE'VE ALREADY GOT SIERRA STUCK IN A FIGHT!
REALLY ...?
...
...I CAN'T MEET HER...
... HUH ...?

PAH (RANG)
DOTA (FLMP)
!?
BUUN (VMM)
URGH


.....
I DIDN'T BELIEVE THE TALES OF A METAL-SLICING SWORD...
...BUT IF HE REALLY CAN SEVER THAT HYBRID ARMOR PLATING ...
KATA (TAP)
KATA
DAMN... I'M DOWN TO TWO DRONES ...
THERE... THAT'S WHAT'S JAMMING ME...

WHAT WAS THAT!?
BAKYN (CRUNCH)
KIN

KYU (POINT)
WHAT-EVER...I'VE REGAINED CONTROL.
TCH...
THE BAS-TARD.
DAMMIT!
PII (BEEP)
MALFUNCTION
AAAH!!
GAGAGASA (SCRAPE)
KYAAA !!

...
THIS VAN IS CUTTING EDGE! YOU GOTTA TRY HARDER THAN THAT!!
EAT IT, ASS-HOLE!
SO THEIR CONTROL VAN IS UNTOUCH-ABLE...
KURU (SPIN)
WELL, THAT'S NOT SURPRISING.
PATAN (THUMP)
LET'S TRY SWITCHING TACTICS.
KATA (TAP)
KATA
KATA

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT EDGE IS PLOTTING...
...BUT I'M SETTLING THIS NOW.

HUH?
WHAT?
I THOUGHT I JUST... WEIRD...
YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR GRANDMA ?

WELL, I CAN'T ACTUALLY MEET HER. IF I DO, SHE GETS WRAPPED UP IN EVERYTHING...
...AND NOT JUST HER, BUT ALL OF MY RELATIVES. SO...
OH... UM...
!?
...I THINK IT'S BETTER IF EVERYONE THINKS I'M DEAD...
I SEE...
YOU CAN'T SEE HER.

...ALL RIGHT...GO ON BACK.
...OKAY...
コツ
コツ
コツ
...SHIT... THE LONGER THIS GOES ON...

NO...
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT VERY REWARDING WATCHING AN OLD LADY LIKE ME.
P-PAR-DON?
I'M SORRY, HORIKAWA-SAN.
WHOA !!

WH-
WHAT'S
THAT!?

AAAH!
ガッ
ウィーン (VWEE)
!
AAAH!
SHIT, SHIT, SHIT!
ヒューン
AAAAH!
FUCK!
ZUBABABA (ZRDDD)

HAA
HAA
BURU
BURU (RATTLE)
GOD-DAMMIT!!
ZUBO (SNAP)
FUCK!
DAN (BLAM)
I JOINED UP...
...BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE A GOOD POLICE OFFICER!!
BA (LEAP)
AH...

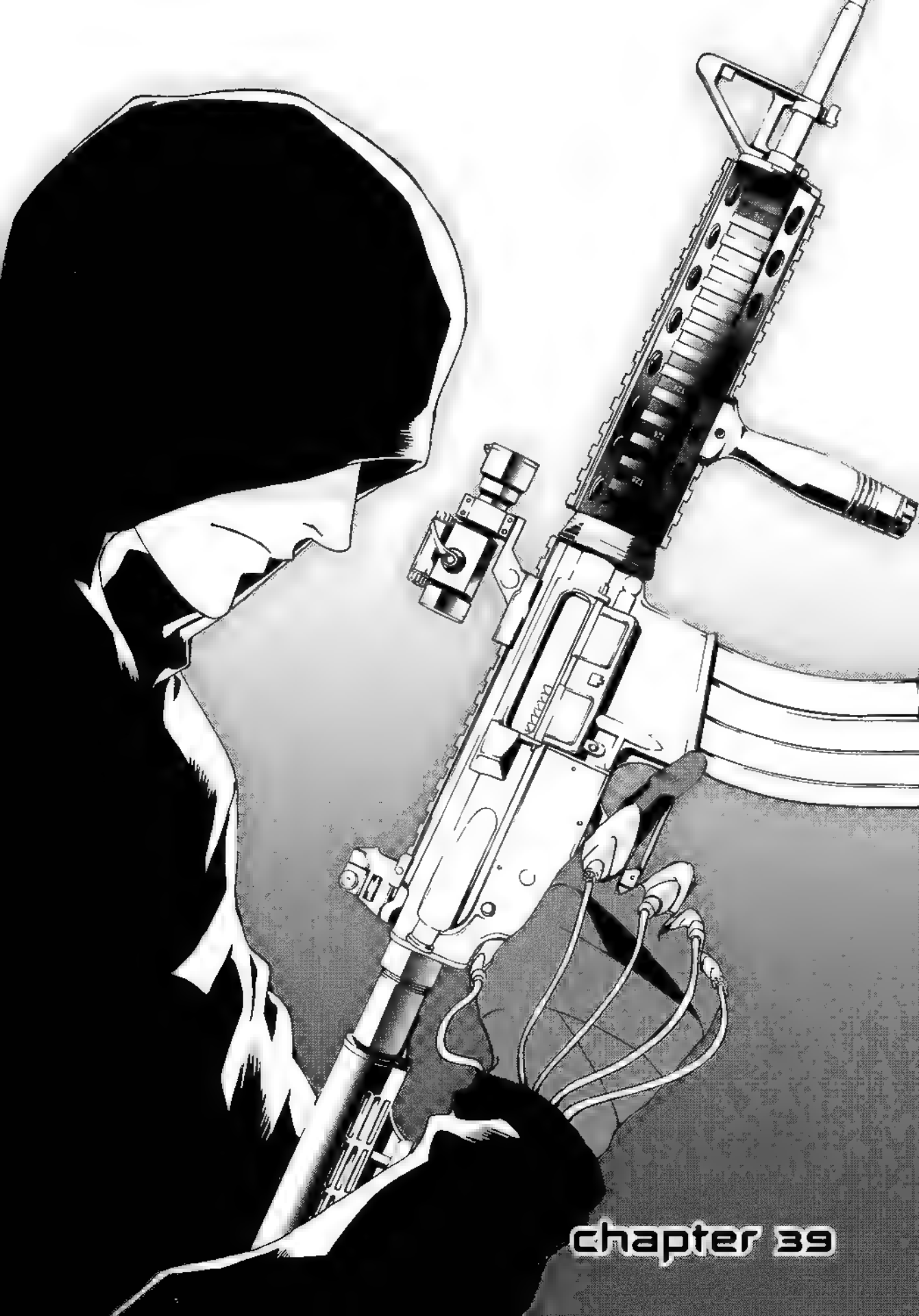
KIN (CLANG)
BUT IN REALITY...
DAN
...IT'S ALL BORING GRUNT-WORK!
KIN
YOU HAVE TO GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE!
DAN
KIN
KIN
RESULTS THIS, PROMO-TIONS THAT...
DAN
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT!?
FUCK THAT!!

ガチッ
ガチッ
ガチッ
!?
RUN, TOOYAMA-SAN!!
GAH!
AAAH!

GAGO (CRUNCH)
GAGA (GRRKK)
BUUN
GA
GA
GA

G... GENDA-SAN!
NICE WORK, HORI-KAWA!
TAKE TOOYAMA-SAN TO A SAFE LOCA-TION!!
BUUN GVMMM

Until
Death
do us
Part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SO THIS IS FANG'S WEAPON...
DAMN! HE MUST HAVE HAD THIS PLANTED IN THE STATION WHEN HE ARRANGED THE BLACK-OUT.
HOW PATHETIC DOES THIS MAKE US LOOK!?

BUT WITHOUT THE FLASH-LIGHT...
I TOLD YOU TO GET OUT.
PI (BEEP)
GOKO (THUNK)
JUST DROP IT! TOOYAMA-SAN'S SAFETY COMES FIRST!
BLAM
AAAH!

ZUDO (THWAMM)
MOVE IT!
GAGAGA (GRRRSHK)

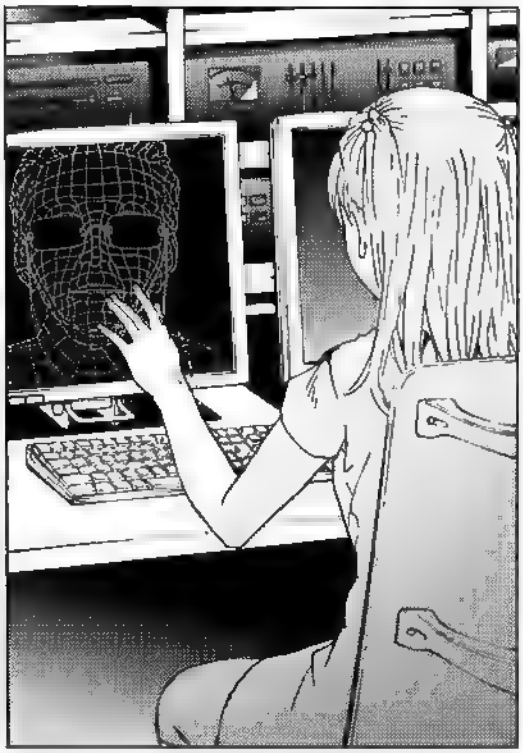
SUSIN (VMM)
I'LL CALL FOR BACKUP!
GAN (CRAKK
I'M THE ONE YOU WANT!

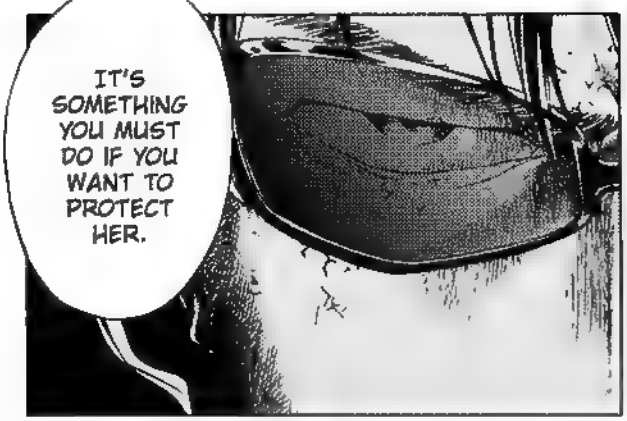
WHAT'S THE DEAL!?
KIKU... (SCREECH)
!?
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM SIERRA.
IF WE DON'T GET MAMORU BACK SOON, SHE COULD BE IN TROUBLE.
PA (FLICK)
IT'S TRANS-MITTING.

DOSU (WHAM)
GWEH!
!?
HFF!
HFF!
DOSA (SLUMP)
AAH!!
MINORI TOOYAMA !?
H...
HORI-KAWA-SAN?

HER PARENTS WERE KILLED AS A CONSE-QUENCE.
HARUKA IS UNDER THREAT FROM A CRIMINAL SYNDICATE
IF YOU INVOLVE YOURSELF IN THIS CASE ANY LONGER, YOU WILL SUFFER FOR IT.
... HUH ...?

THINK OF HARUKA AS DEAD.



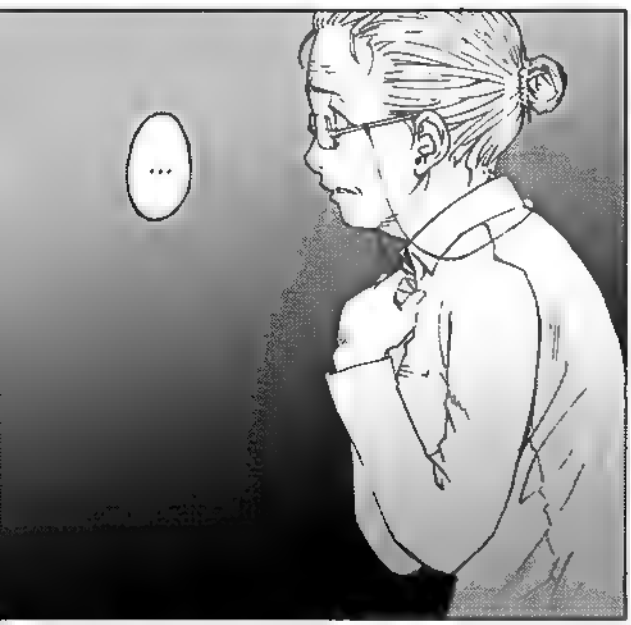

IT'S SOMETHING YOU MUST DO IF YOU WANT TO PROTECT HER.

...BUT... BUT WHY ...!?
GAK A
GOLUP.
... NO ...
NNH... AH...
UUUNH ...
...

THINK OF ME ...
...AS A BODYGUARD HIRED BY HARUKA.

I CAN'T REVEAL MY IDENTITY TO YOU...

...BUT I'LL GIVE HER MY BEST.


...

GAN
GAN
GAN (CLANK)
GASHA (CLICK)
DO (HOLD)
HOW TOUGH IS THIS THING!?
RAAAH !!
GASHU (CRUNCH)
!?
UHHN (VWEB)

RAAAAH !!
GAGAGAGAGA (GRRSH)
GASHA (CLICK)
PARI (CRIK)
PARI
BABA (ZZRRD)
AAAH!
!?
ヒュルル

...
!?
...HIJI-KATA...!?
GOSHA (CRUNCH)
GASHAA (CRASH)
!

HIJI-
KATAAA
!!
DON
(BOOOM)
PARA
(CRUMBLE)
パラ
PARA
パラ

... BAS- TARD ...
ZAWA
ザワ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ザワ
DAN (WHOMP)
ダン

WHERE'S THE ENEMY !?
BUOOO
DRIVE!
OKAY!
...HE WANTS TO FINISH THIS FIGHT...
STILL HASN'T MOVED, IT SEEMS.
BUOOO

THAT'S YOUR LAST TOY.
GIVE UP.
スタッ
SUTA (HOP)
キキィ
KIKII (SCREECH)

BUOO (VRRR)
KUKU (CLANK)
...I'VE GOT ONE MORE SPECIAL ONE, JUST FOR YOU.
ACTU-ALLY ...
KYUI (FLIK)

!!

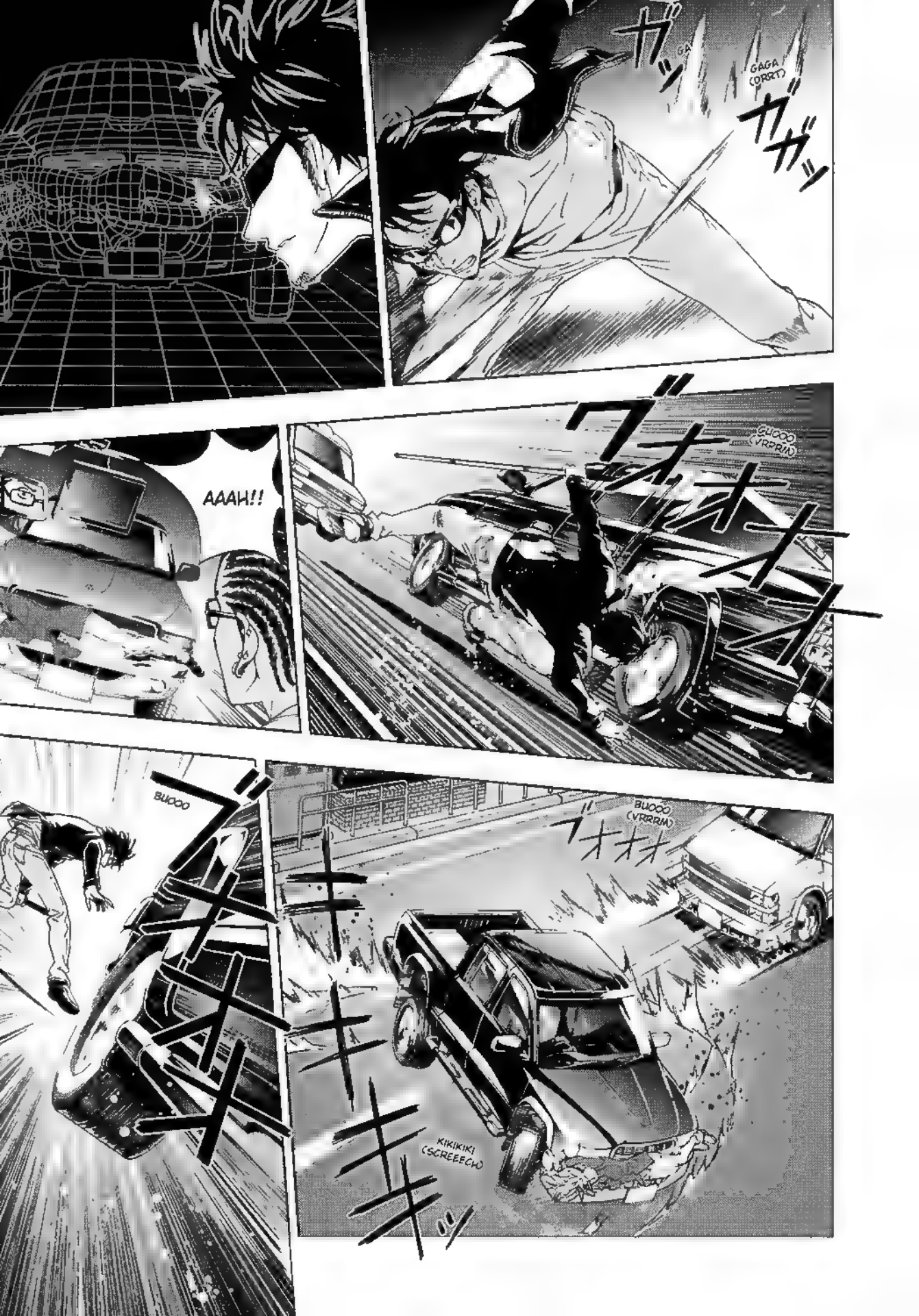
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUT THE THREE OF US FIRST.
SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
BETTER SAVE HER QUICK, BEFORE SHE DIES.
...
BEAT HIM RIGHT NOW!!
MA-MORU-SAN!

...
...I'M ON IT...

Until
Death
do us
Part

YOU LOOK RATHER FATIGUED.
BEFORE YOU START ANYTHING, LET ME BE CLEAR...
...IF YOU KILL ME, THIS TWO-TON WEAPON WILL AUTO-MATICALLY RUN WILD.
BURORORO (VRRMM)
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO HURT YOUR FRIEND, WOULD YOU?

...MOTHER-FUCKER...
chapter 40
BA (DAT)
BA
BA
BA


GAGA (DRRT)
AAAH!!
BUOOO (VRRRM)
BUOOO
BUOOO (VRRRM)
KIKIKIKI (SCREEECH)

HYU (ZWISH)
AIM FOR...
...THE ENGINE!
KIKII (SCREECH)
GACHA (CRUNK)
BITA (STOP)
URK!!

GUH!
BA (DAT)
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
KIN (CLANG)
KIN

...
SHIT!
WE CAN'T DO A THING WITH SIERRA HELD HOSTAGE LIKE THAT!!
DAN (WHAM)
BA (DAT)
BA
BA
BA
CUT THE ROPES HOLDING SIERRA, AND IT'LL JUST MAUL HER UNDER THE TIRES.
PLUS, BETWEEN THE RIFLE AND THE DRONE, WE CAN'T GET CLOSE TO HIM!
IF WE TRY TO TAKE OUT THE TIRES OR BODY, WHO KNOWS WHERE IT WILL GO WHEN IT LOSES CONTROL?
BA
BA
BA
GA
GA
WHAT'S THE PLAN, MAMORU!?
AND EVEN IF WE BEAT THE CONTROLLER, THE TRUCK WILL JUST GO WILD WITHOUT HIM!
GA (BAM)
GA
GA

TRYING TO HIDE ...?
SHIT... IT'S NOT GONNA GET CLOSE TO ME.
BUUN (VHHM)
THEN I'LL JUST ENSURE YOU CAN'T STAY IN THE SHADOWS ...
CHA (CLICK)
!?
BUOOO (VRRRM)
フォオオ
DON (BLAM)
BUBA (B-URSH)

!?
RRRGH!!
AAAAAH!
WHA...?
DA (DASH)
...SICK BASTARD ...
YOU FOOL!

BA (DRATTA)
BA
BA
BA
BUUN (VVMMM)
ブオオオ

What are you thinking, man!?
Igawa! Not yet!
SHIT!
GACHA (CHUNK)
ガチャッ
ZUZA (SLIDE)
ズザザザッ
!

!?
BLOOOO (VRUHMM)
KIN (CLANG)

ZUBA
(SLICE)

GASHI
(GRAB)
!!

GASHAAA (CRAAASH)

DIE!
BA (DAT)
BA
BA
BA
BLOOO (VRRRM)
KIN
KIN (CLANG)
WHAT NOW, ASS-HOLE!?

GAAH!!
GAKUN (SLUMP)
BASU
BASU (THUK)
DO
DO
DO
DO (SHINK)

GAAAH!!
DOSA (THUD)
BATA (FLOP)
BATA
NNH... AAH!
...K-KILL ME...

YOU MADE TWO MISTAKES.
I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT.
ONE, YOU DIDN'T FINISH ME AT THE START.
TWO, YOU SHOWED YOURSELF TO ME.
PLUS ...
YOU DIDN'T GO INTO YOUR KILLER FORMATION AT FIRST...
...BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO NAB HARUKA AT THE SAME TIME, RIGHT?

A CLAY-MORE.
SO YOU USED UP ALL YOUR TOOLS, GOT IMPATIENT, AND EXPOSED YOURSELF FOR YOUR FINAL TRAP.
SCRAP
.....
YOU'D PLAY LIKE YOU LOST, THEN WAIT FOR ME TO APPROACH AND CROW OVER YOUR BODY BEFORE BLOWING ME UP WITH THIS.
BUT YOU PLAYED TOO MANY HANDS, AND MISSED YOUR SHOT AT VICTORY.
A PUPPETEER HUNG BY HIS OWN STRINGS.
YOU MIGHT BE A FIRST-RATE ASSASSIN.
IT'S GOOD WORK.

ブオオオ
BLOOD (/RRM)
TO MAKE SURE SCUM LIKE YOU LIVES WITH REGRET FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!
KI (SCREECH)
WH- WHY WOULD YOU—
GACHA (KCHAK)
カチャッ
NIYARI (SMIRK)
MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR THE EXPOSED ASSASSIN TO CONSIDER WHAT LIFE WOULD BE LIKE WITHOUT HIS WEAPONS.

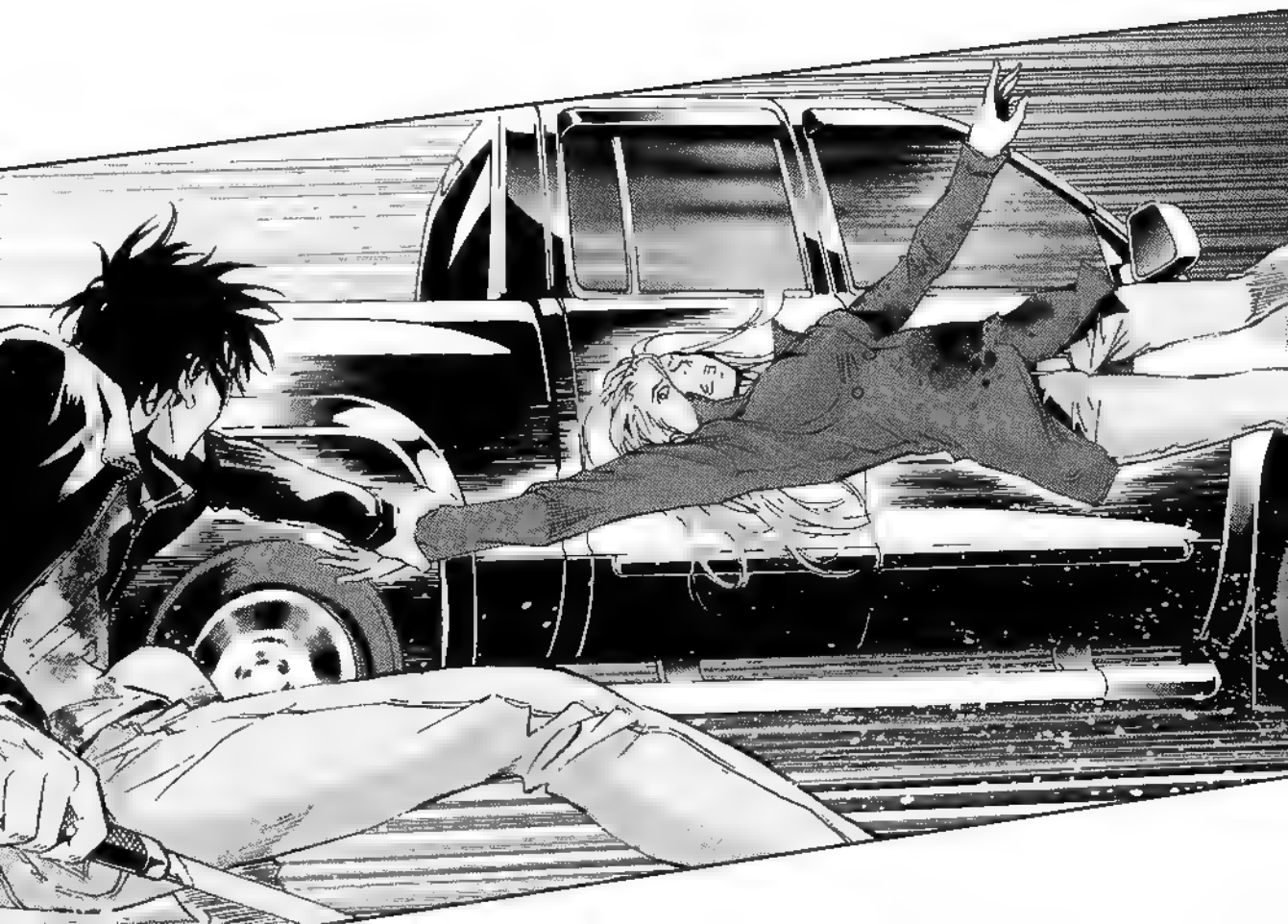
.....
ブオオオ
BLOOOO
VRRRM

SHUT UP.
.....
MAMORU-SAN...
...THANK YOU...
RAAAAAH!!
AAAH!!
RRRH...

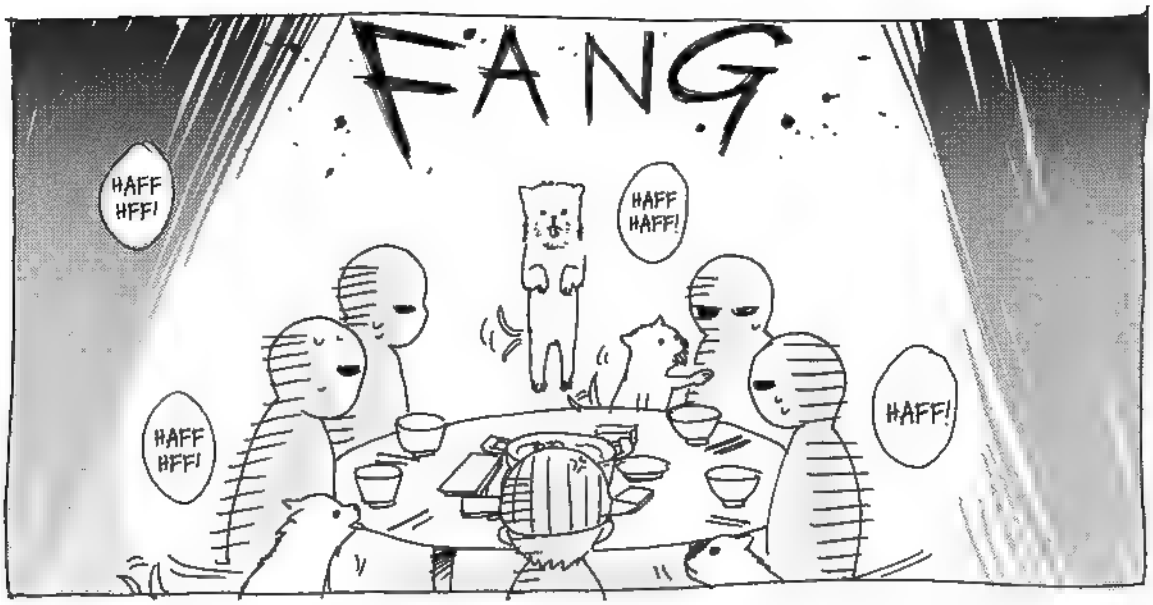
WE GOT TROUBLE, ALFA!

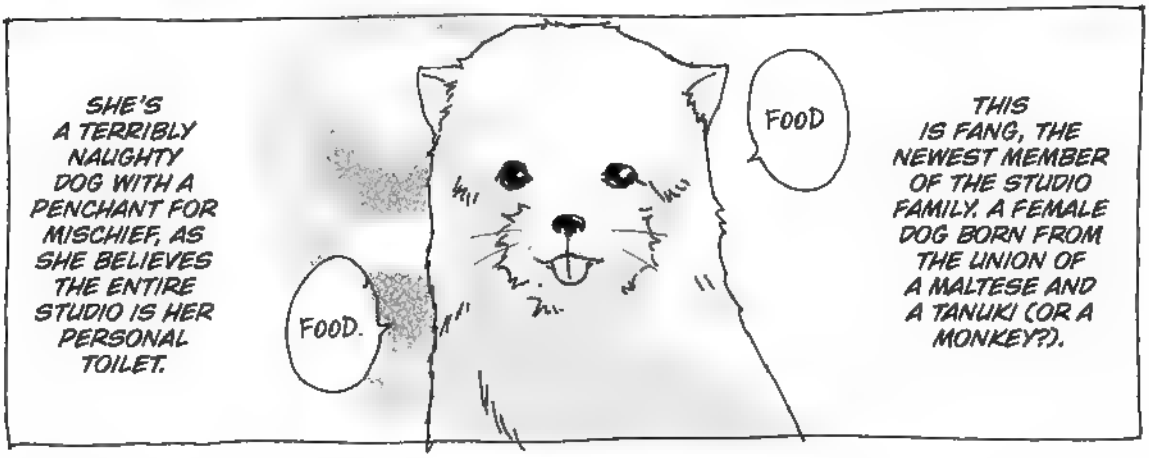
SALZ-BURG, AUS-TRIA

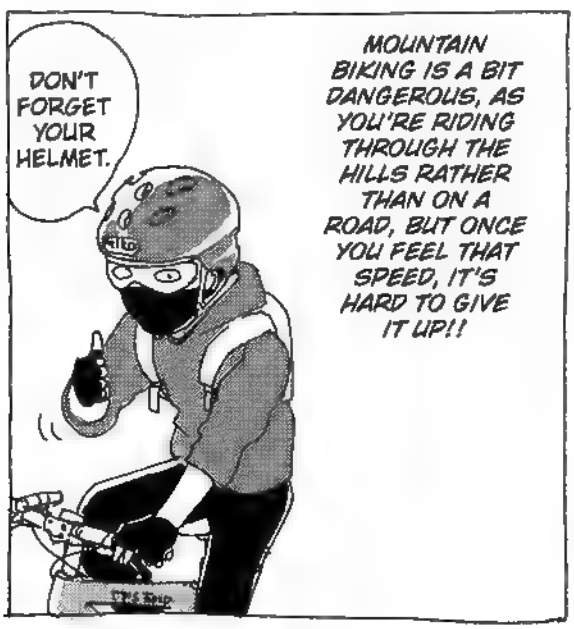
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IS IT? I WAS ABOUT TO START THE BRIEFING.
THIS E-MAIL CAME IN THROUGH MY MERCENARY ACCOUNT.
HUH?
!!
THERE'S A $100 MILLION BOUNTY ON BLADE.
THIS MEANS HIRED KILLERS AND MERCENARIES THE WORLD OVER WILL BE RACING TO JAPAN TO FIND HIM.

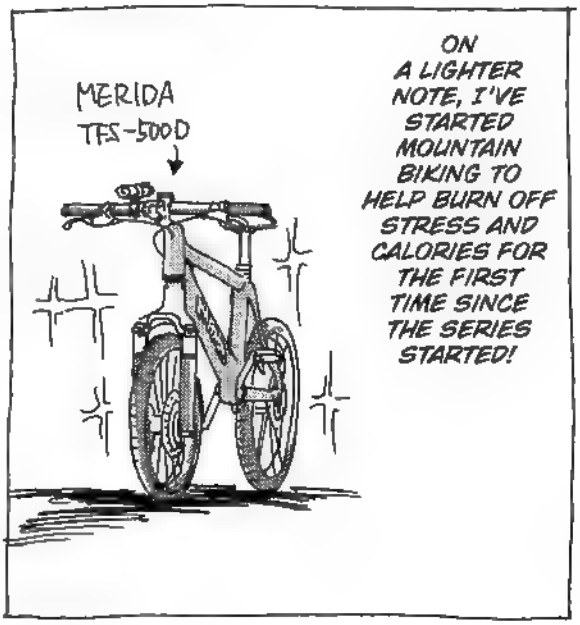


OMAKE PAGE
APRIL 2007... A NATURAL DISASTER ERUPTS IN THE STUDIO OF MANGA ARTIST "D" (NAME CHANGED TO PROTECT THE VICTIM)!
GRAAAH!
GRRRL!
DEMON-SPAWN FROM HELL, FLASHING FIERCE FANGS AND TEARING CLAWS!
IT TRACKS ITS PREY WITH AN INSATIABLE BLOODLUST...
...PLUNGING THE STUDIO INTO A SEA OF TERROR!
AAA


FANG
HAFF HFF!
HAFF HAFF!
HAFF HFF!
HAFF!


SHE'S A TERRIBLY NAUGHTY DOG WITH A PENCHANT FOR MISCHIEF, AS SHE BELIEVES THE ENTIRE STUDIO IS HER PERSONAL TOILET.
FOOD
FOOD.
THIS IS FANG, THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE STUDIO FAMILY. A FEMALE DOG BORN FROM THE UNION OF A MALTESE AND A TANUKI (OR A MONKEY?).


DON'T FORGET YOUR HELMET.
MOUNTAIN BIKING IS A BIT DANGEROUS, AS YOU'RE RIDING THROUGH THE HILLS RATHER THAN ON A ROAD, BUT ONCE YOU FEEL THAT SPEED, IT'S HARD TO GIVE IT UP!!


MERIDA
TFS-500D
ON A LIGHTER NOTE, I'VE STARTED MOUNTAIN BIKING TO HELP BURN OFF STRESS AND CALORIES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE SERIES STARTED!

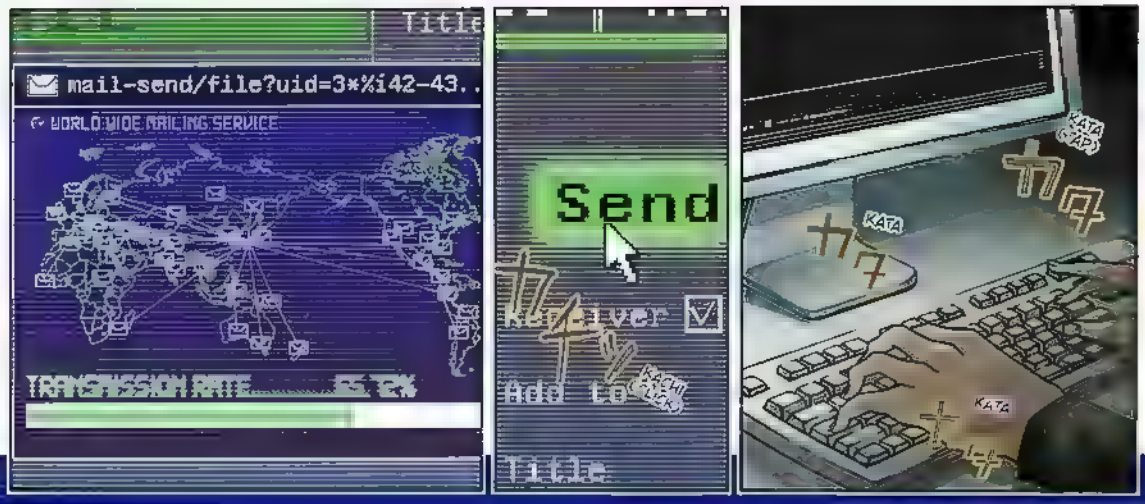
THAT WAY!
IT'S BEEN FIVE HOURS!
A FRIEND OF MINE AND I ONCE GOT LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR FIVE HOURS. THE SUN WAS SETTING... AND WE'D STARTED OUR TRIP IN THE MORNING ...
LIKE, A DEADLY SERIOUS CASE OF IT...
BUT THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM...I HAVE A POOR SENSE OF DIRECTION.
S-STAY BACK! TALK TO ME FROM OVER THERE!
H-HELP ME...
IN THE END... WE WERE RESCUED BY MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS HIKING THROUGH THE HILLS.
IN SUM:
START RIDING THEM, EVERY-ONE!
MOUN-TAIN BIKES RULE!
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT TIME! THANKS FOR READING!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?
ASIDE FROM HITTING CARS IN THE PARKING LOT AND FALLING DOWN THE STAIRS WHILE CARRYING MY BIKE, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY BIG ACCIDENTS, SO MY BIKING LIFE HAS BEEN FUN.

Art Staff
VaaasQ (24) ♂: Chief Assistant
Suri (24) ♀: Background Art
Euzue (24) ♀: Screentones
0-Second (22) ♂: Background Art
Zorda (22) ♀: Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

Until
Death
do us
Part



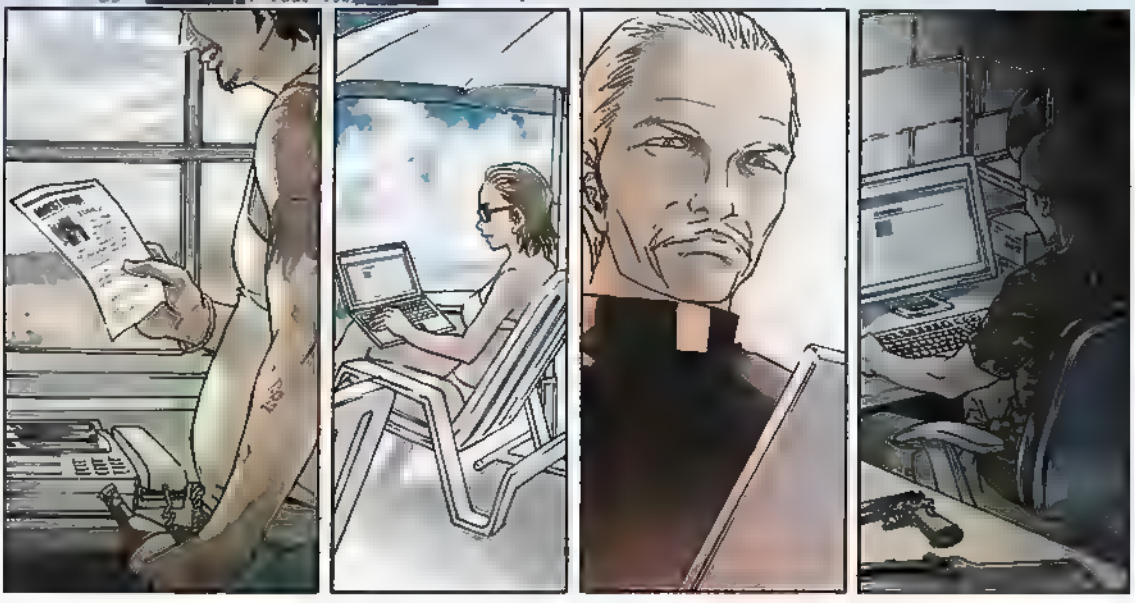
nations.

MOST WANTED.

$100,000,000

prize: one hundred million dollars

Bounty of $100 million to be paid to the killer of this man: Mamoru Hijikata. Japanese. Resident of Tokyo. Features: About six feet tall, average build. Blind.(Has some eyesight through special sunglasses.) Black hair.
Weapons: Cane-concealed katana.



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chapter 41

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120

chapter 41

WEST SETA-GAYA POLICE STATION
喫煙所
CSI INSIDE A POLICE STATION?
SIGN: SMOKING ROOM
...
...THANK GOD...
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD...
GAYA
GAYA (MURMUR)

I STUCK IN THERE! I DIDN'T RUN AWAY!
I MADE IT!

HUH?
WHAT'S UP?

I SEE...

UH...
...JUST GLAD I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING I'D HAVE HAD TO BEAT MYSELF UP ABOUT.

...YEAH, I HEAR YA.
IF I'D TURNED TAIL AND RUN, I THINK I'D BE DOUBTING WHETHER OR NOT I COULD CARRY ON AS AN OFFICER.
SIGN: MIDORI MIDDLE SCHOOL
I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED, BUT YOU GOTTA GO TO SCHOOL.
...
NO, THAT COMBO MAKES ...
WAI (WHEE)
DID YOU WATCH THAT SHOW?
WAI
YOU'RE SUCH A DORK!

I'M SO SLEEPY...
THEY'RE GONNA BE SUSPICIOUS IF YOU STAY HOME TODAY.
...FWAAAH... YAWN...
YEAH, THE TEXT IS GETTING AROUND ...
GAYA
GAYA (MURMUR)
THAT'S TYPE-4, RIGHT?
.....

YOU'RE AWAKE?
OH...
HOW'S SIERRA DOING?
IF YOUR SYSTEM WORKS, IT'LL AUTOMATICALLY ALERT US IF SOMETHING'S UP, RIGHT?
cam-02
MAN ON WATCH CAN'T FALL RIGHT TO SLEEP.

SIERRA'S CONDITION ISN'T LIFE-THREATENING, BUT SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE.
SHE'LL BE HOSPITALIZED FOR A WHILE, I BET.
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT...
BY THE WAY...
THESE SHIFTS WERE SET UP UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT SIERRA WOULD BE WITH US.
WITH YOU BEING THE ONLY BATTLE-WORTHY MEMBER HERE, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO REST.
...THAT'S ROUGH ...
J
HUH?
...PAL?
...WHO'S YOUR PAL?

UWAH
!!

.....

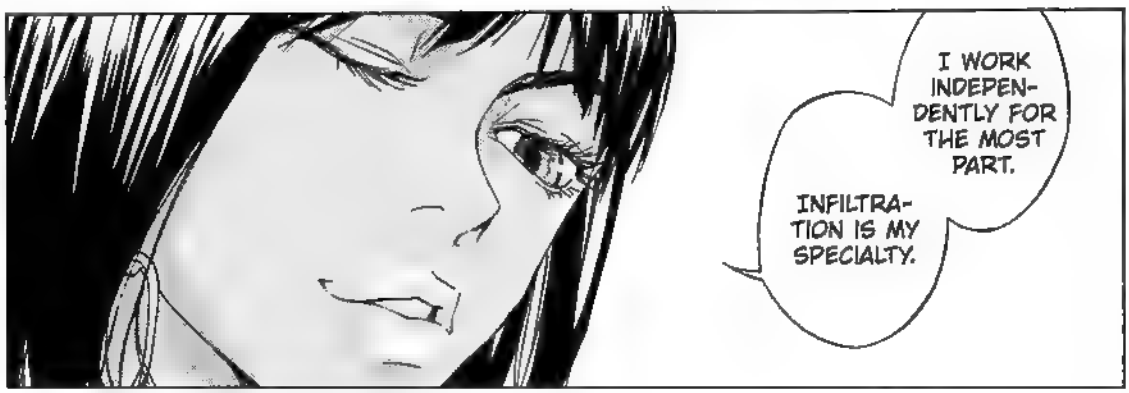
WHO ARE YOU?
H-HOW'D YOU GET IN!?
THIS PLACE IS A DUMP.
KO (TOK)
KO

WITH A LOCK LIKE THAT...
...YOU MIGHT AS WELL NOT HAVE ONE AT ALL.

THE ALARMS NEVER WENT OFF...
?
DOSA (THUMP)

I'M JULIET FROM THE WALL.
ALFA ORDERED ME TO TAKE SIERRA'S PLACE ON YOUR TEAM.

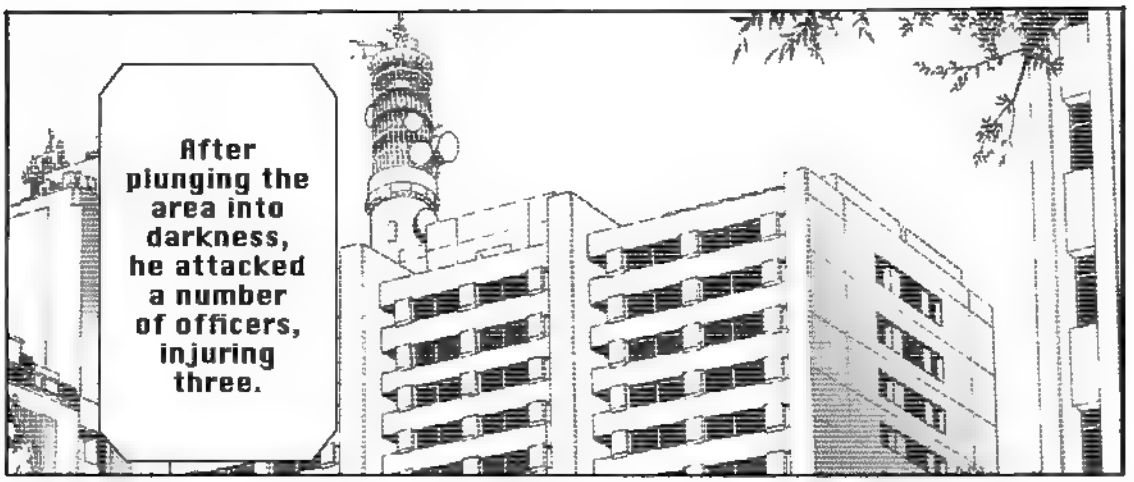
THE WALL?
SHOULDN'T THEY BE IN EUROPE BY NOW?

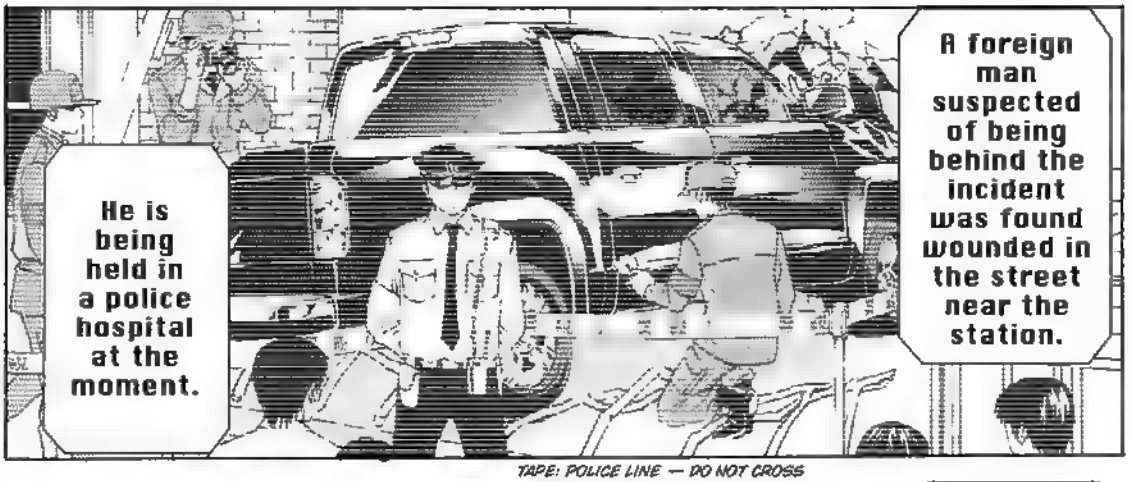

I WORK INDEPENDENTLY FOR THE MOST PART.
INFILTRATION IS MY SPECIALTY.

.....
IN SHORT, YOU'RE A SPY...
DON'T TALK ABOUT HER THAT WAY!
...BECAUSE SOMEONE ON THE TEAM CAN'T PULL HER OWN WEIGHT.
SO I GET BOOTED ALL THE WAY TO THE FAR EAST...
SOUNDS LIKE I TOUCHED A NERVE...
OOOH...

WHAT-EVER.
JUST SHOW ME THE WAY TO MY ROOM.
トン
TON (THUMP)
SHE'S GOOD... ALREADY CALLING HER OWN SHOTS.
WHAT AM I...A PORTER?
OH!

OTHER MEMBERS WILL BE COMING AROUND TO HELP OUT AS THEY'RE AVAILABLE.
CHU (SMOOCH)
BYE, NOW. ♡
WHAT!?
Last night, the assailant meticulously destroyed the power grid around the West Setagaya Police Station.


After plunging the area into darkness, he attacked a number of officers, injuring three.


He is being held in a police hospital at the moment.
A foreign man suspected of being behind the incident was found wounded in the street near the station.
TAPE: POLICE LINE — DO NOT CROSS

But explosives set by the attacker were found in various places around the area...
...meaning no civilians were hurt.
Fortunately, the area around the station is a shopping district, which was virtually empty late at night...

HA-HA-HA...
We'll have more details as they become available.
...and the neighborhood remains off-limits as authorities secure the block.
ピッ
PI (POP)
TOSS IN ONE ASSASSIN, AND MAYBE HE GETS THE JOB DONE.
AND EVEN IF HE FAILS, HIS FEE IS OFFERED TO THE WORLD AS A BOUNTY?

AND IF YOU DON'T PUT OUT A PRICE LIKE THIS ONE, YOU CAN'T GET THE REAL CREAM OF THE CROP TO BITE WITH SUCH VAGUE INFORMATION.
I WANTED WORD TO GET OUT THAT A FIRST-RATE ASSASSIN LIKE FANG WAS INVOLVED.
THAT'S ALL IT TAKES FOR THE UNDERWORLD TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY.
THE SECOND-CLASS KILLERS I WOULDN'T NORMALLY CARE ABOUT WILL BAND TOGETHER AND KEEP THAT MONSTER BUSY.
WE'LL TRAP HIM HERE AND SMOTHER HIM.
YOU'VE REALLY GOT CASH LIKE THAT TO SLING AROUND?
A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS TO KILL A MONSTER.
FIVE HUNDRED TO CATCH A GIRL.

AT BEST, I CAN SCRAPE TOGETHER A HUNDRED MILLION.
THEN...? HOW?
IF I COULD SOMEHOW GET THIS BROKEN OLD BODY OF MINE TO TAKE THAT MONSTER DOWN WITH ME, I'D DO IT.
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
ONCE I HAVE HARUKA TOOYAMA, MONEY WILL BE EASY TO COME BY.
I CAN SELL HER SECRETS TO GALBOA TOO.

BECAUSE HE OWES ME.
WHY DID FANG AGREE TO JUMP INTO THIS SO READILY?
...

HE'S ONE OF MY FAMILY.

I WAS THE ONE WHO ARRANGED FOR HIM TO GET THOSE EXPERIMENTAL AMERICAN KILLING MACHINES.

...HE'S A FRIGHTENING MAN..
SHUBO (SHWICH)
...
HE'LL USE WHATEVER HE CAN GET HIS HANDS ON TO SATISFY HIS RAGE...
BETTER BE CAREFUL, OR I'LL WIND UP A PAWN IN HIS SCHEMES.
I WANT A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO HIS EVENTUAL DOWNFALL, WHEN HIS STAMINA FAILS HIM AND HE FINDS HIMSELF BACKED UP AGAINST A WALL.

AND THERE'S ONE MORE MOVE TO BE MADE IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THAT HAPPY END.
...!?

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 42

...I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE OF MORE HELP TO YOU...
OH, YOU DIDN'T NEED TO SEE ME OFF.
I'M NOT GIVING UP, MA'AM.
WE'RE GOING TO FIND YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER FOR YOU.
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
WHAT YOU'VE DONE MEANS THE WORLD TO ME.

HORIKAWA-SAN.
YOU WERE REPRIMANDED BECAUSE OF ME, WEREN'T YOU? I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
THANK YOU.
NO, NO.
IF I HADN'T FIRED MY GUN THERE, I'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN ANOTHER CHANCE.
IT WAS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ME. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
FOR A GUY WHOSE CAREER PATH HAS BEEN DERAILED ...
...HE SURE LOOKS HAPPY.

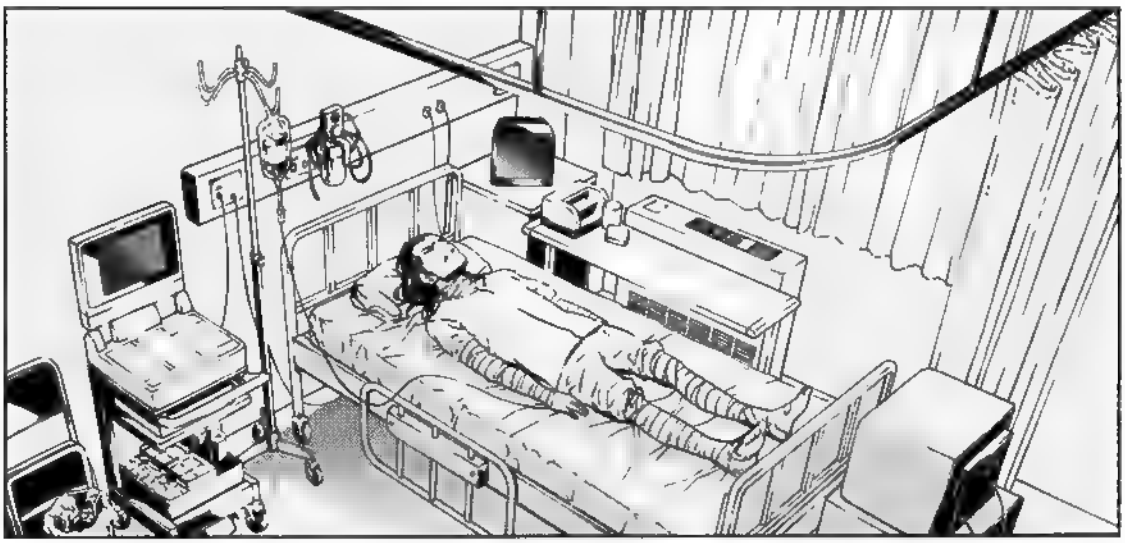
UM...
...I'LL TRY.
I HOPE YOU WILL BECOME AN EVEN GREATER POLICEMAN IN THE FUTURE.
I'LL JUST GO HOME AND WAIT FOR HARUKA TO RETURN, I SUPPOSE.
THANK YOU, EVERYONE.
...

SHE WON'T TELL US ANYTHING, BUT SHE SEEMS BOLDER AND MORE CONFIDENT SINCE THE DAY HIJIKATA SHOWED UP.
SHE MUST HAVE MADE CONTACT.
IF HIJIKATA IS PROTECTING HARUKA TOOYAMA ...
...THAT MAKES IT HARD FOR US TO GO AFTER HIM.
WHAT IS IT?

...NOTHING.
.....
HUH!?
POLICE HOS-PITAL
402
ASS-HOLE...
CAN'T GET A WORD OUTTA HIM, MUCH LESS A NAME...
DAM-MIT!

SERVES HIM RIGHT.
404
BAH! PRETTY USELESS PROFES-SIONAL AT THIS POINT.
HE'S A PRO KILLER, JUST LIKE GENDA-SAN WARNED US.
404A
KABATA, HIS LAWYER.
PARDON ME.
AND YOU ARE?
HMPH.
KO
KO (TOK)

HE'S GOT HIS HANDS IN ALL KINDS OF PIES.
YOU KNOW, THE MOB LAWYER.
HUH !?
WHO?
...YOU MEAN GOUZOU KABATA ...!?



……

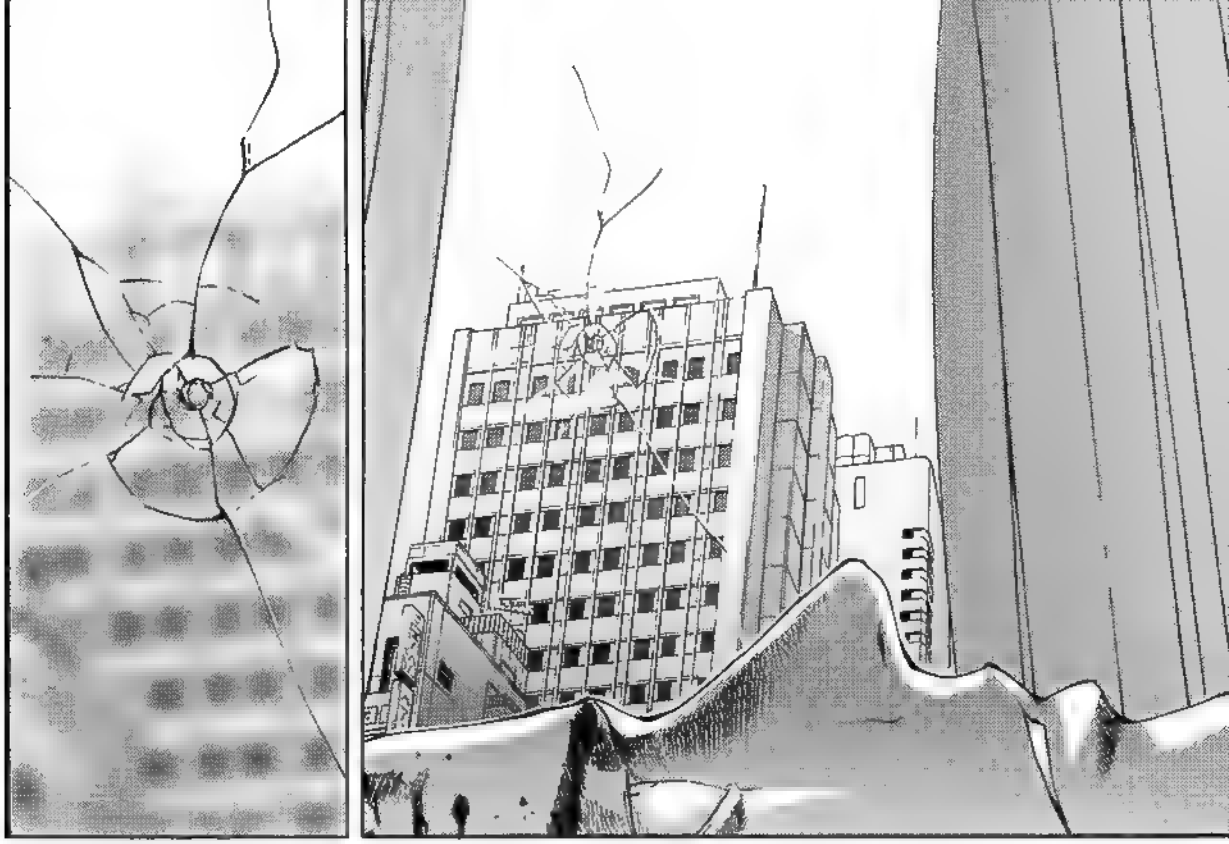
ザッ
ザッ
ザッ
ザッ

ザッ
ZA
ザッ
ZA
ザッ
ZA (ZSH)
ああああ
あああ
ILSA (SLASH)
ズサッ
ザクッ

!?
GACHA (CLICK)
BIK.. (TWITCH)
.....
YOU REALLY SCREWED UP.

AND THAT MEANS HE'LL NEED THE DECRYPTION KEY.
MR. W WANTS THE DATA YOUR DRONES COLLECTED ON THE ENEMY.
LET'S GET THIS BUSINESS OVER WITH.
...I'LL TRADE IT... FOR WHAT I NEED...
...I...

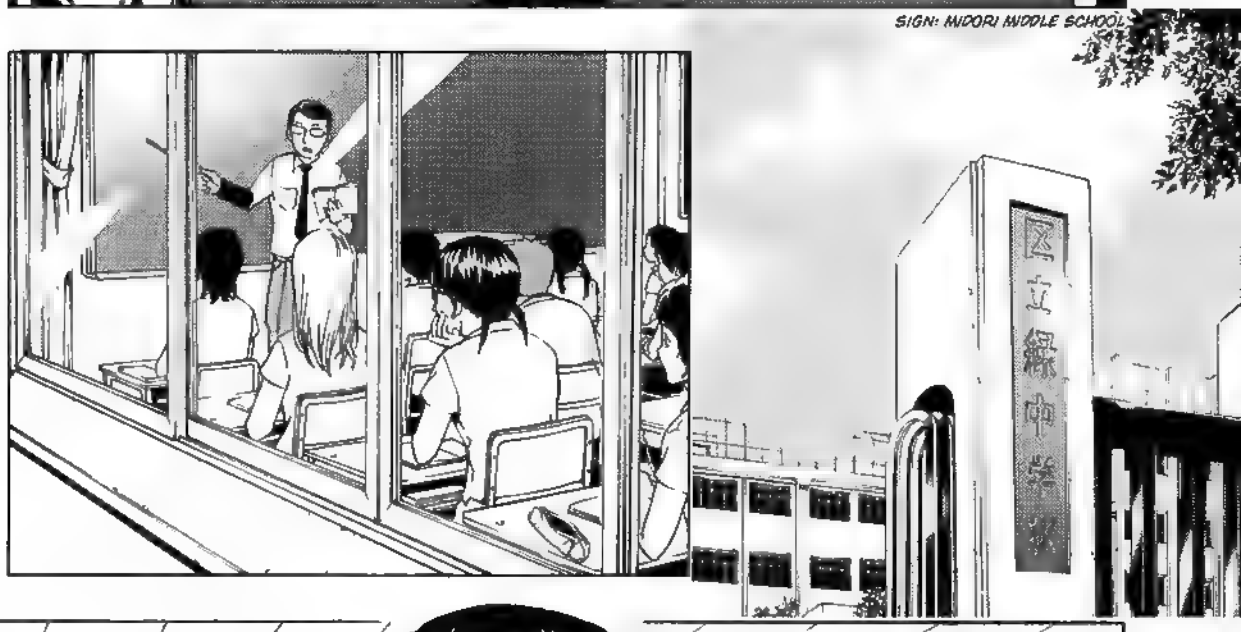
HEY, COME QUICK!
HUH?
...
DADA (DASH)
WHAT IS IT?
JUST COME!



HE WANTED TO DIE BEFORE ONE OF HIS COWORKERS COULD TORTURE AND KILL HIM?
REALLY...

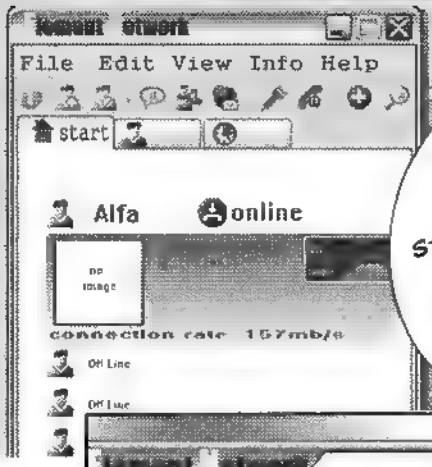
KIKI (SCREECH)

PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT FATE DEMANDS OF A HIRED KILLER...


SIGN: MIDORI MIDDLE SCHOOL

...

SO THAT'S OUR PRESCIENT LITTLE PRINCESS...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Alfa
online
no image
connection rate 157mb/s
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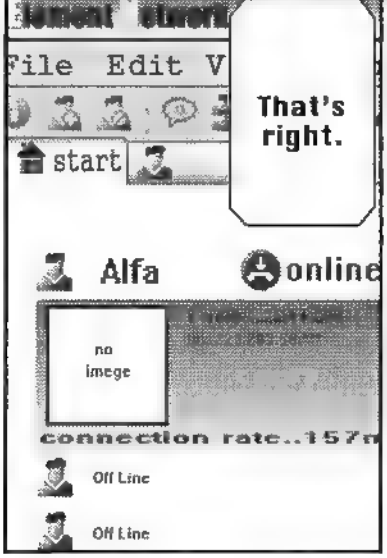
Off Line

MOST WANTE
QUITE A STAGGERING SUM.
A BOUNTY, HUH?
$100,00 0
prize: one hundred million do
Bounty of $100 million to be paid to the ki
of th's man· Mamoru Hijikata. Japanes
Resident of Tokyo. Features About six fe
tal , average build Blind (Has some ey
sight through special sunglasses.) Bla
hair Weapons: Cane-concealed katar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That's right.
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YOU ACT LIKE IT DOESN'T MEAN ANY-THING!

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connection rate .157mb/s
A hundred million for killing you...
...plus five hundred million for Haruka Tooyama, unharmed.
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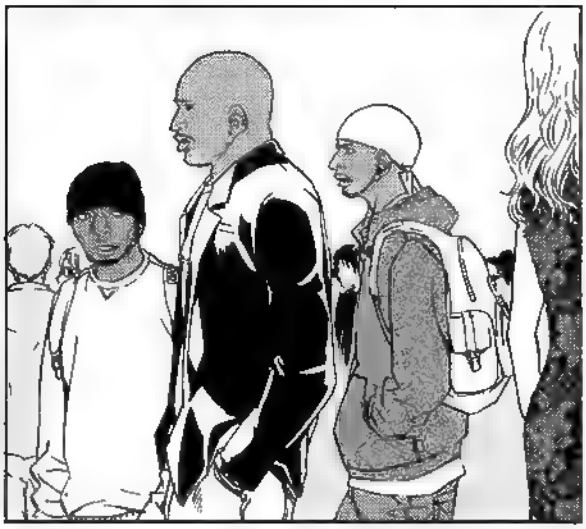
Off Line
Actually, it's quite clever.
KIND OF AN INDIRECT WAY OF GOING ABOUT THINGS, ISN'T IT?
With the prize set like that, no one is going to endanger the girl just to kill you.
IF YOU WEREN'T IN THE PICTURE, IT WOULDN'T BE ALL THAT HARD TO GET HARUKA TOOYAMA.

IT'S A MOVE DESIGNED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE KILLED...
BUT THE GIRL ISN'T WORTH A SINGLE CENT UNTIL YOU'RE DEAD.
SO, OUR DIPLOMAT FRIEND...
...REALLY WANTS ME DEAD.
... and that Haruka is recovered unharmed, hopefully.
But what it boils down to is, as long as I live, Haruka will be fine.

ASSUMING NONE OF THEM WOULD RATHER TAKE THE HUNDRED ON THE TABLE THAN THE FIVE HUNDRED THEY'VE BEEN PROMISED IN THE FUTURE.
...
...
FIVE HUNDRED MILLION FOR A SINGLE GIRL...
IT'S BULLSHIT.
WHICH IS WHY WE'RE GOING TO MAKE USE OF THIS.
INDEED.

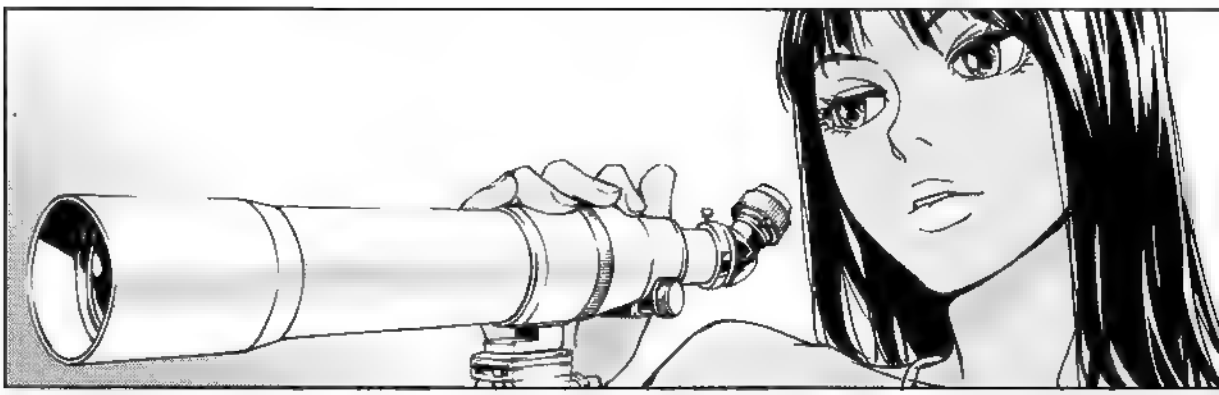
WE'RE GONNA ROUND UP ANY SCUM THAT COMES HERE LOOKING FOR YOU.
TOSHIBA



I'VE ALREADY SEEN A FEW THAT FIT THE PRO-FILE.
BRAVO AND CHARLIE CAN HANDLE THINGS.
ARE YOU IN JAPAN!?
WHAT ABOUT THE TEAM?
ALL I'VE SEEN SO FAR ARE SMALL-TIME NOBODIES.

PITA
(FREEZE)
ピタッ
!?
WHAT
WAS
THAT...!?

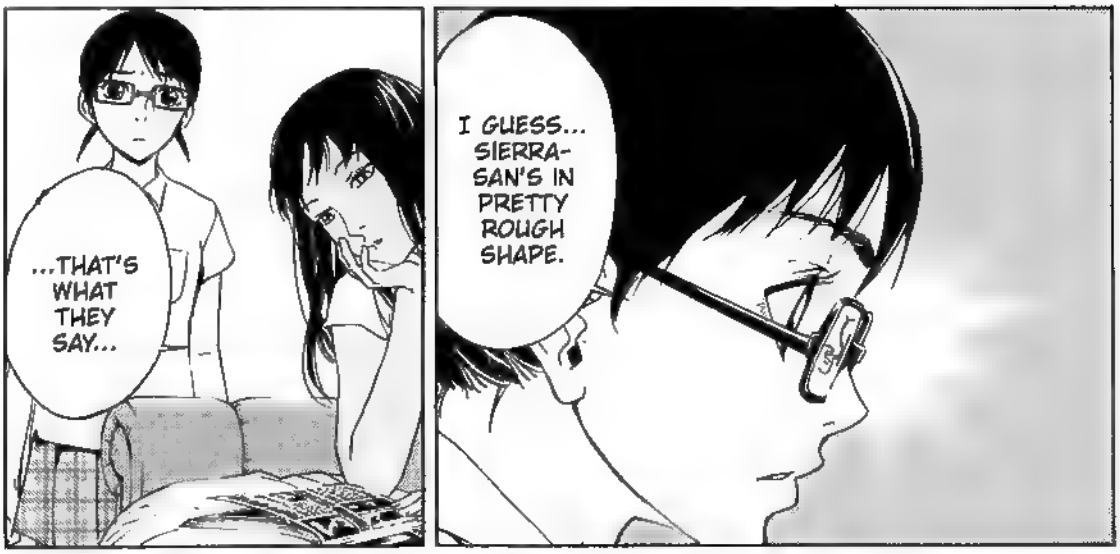
...THERE. OUR FIRST REAL PLAYERS ...



Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 43

I-I'M HOOOME...
...WELCOME BACK...


...THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY...
I GUESS... SIERRA-SAN'S IN PRETTY ROUGH SHAPE.

SHE'S A DISGRACE TO THE WALL...
ALMOST TAKEN OUT BY YOUR TARGET?
TALK ABOUT CARELESS ...

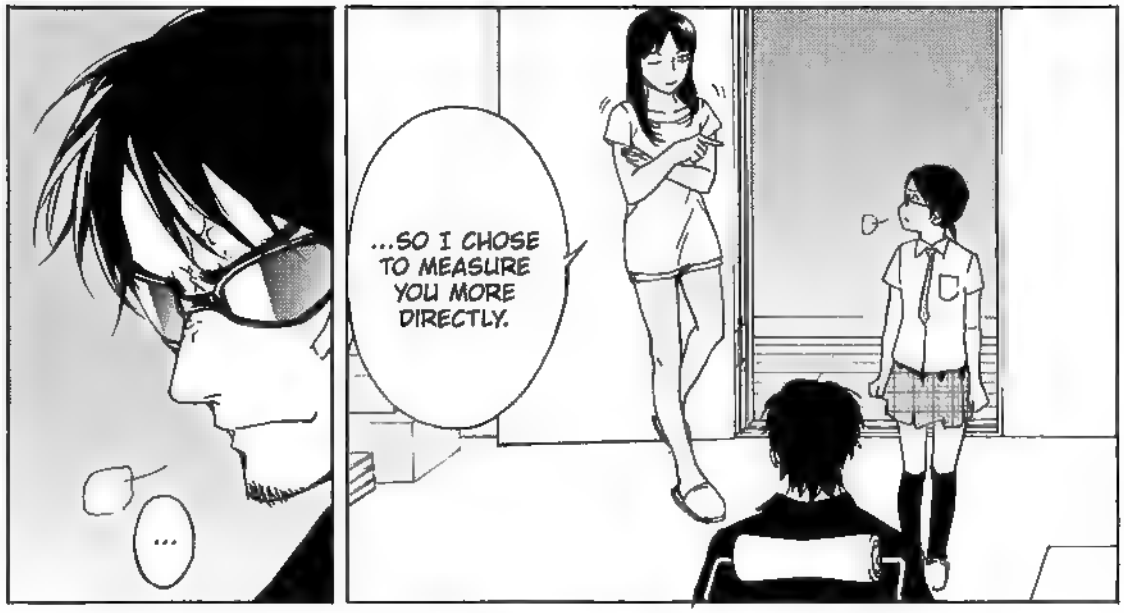
...
KURU (SPIN)
BAN (WHAM)
MAMORU-SAN!!
WH-WHAT?
TSUKA (TROMP)
TSUKA
!?

WHO IS SHE!?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL!?
BI (JAB)
BUT WHY IS SHE SAYING SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS ABOUT SIERRA-SAN!?
I KNOW THAT!
DAN (STOMP)
DAN
JULIET?
SHE'S STANDING IN FOR SIERRA.
SHE ACTED LIKE THAT WITH ME AND IGAWA TOO.
AGAIN?
AGAIN, HUH...?

IS THAT TRUE ...!?
BUT—
I THINK SHE LIKES TO START OFF BY ROCKING YOUR EMOTIONS...
...AND THEN READS YOUR REACTION IN ORDER TO GET A FEEL FOR YOU.
...VERY ASTUTE...
YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP.
AAAAH!

...
MU (GRIT)
I CAN SEE WHY ALFA LIKES YOU SO MUCH.
.....
IT LOOKS LIKE GETTING EMOTIONAL REALLY THROWS YOU OFF YOUR PRECOGNITION GAME.

JUST AS ALFA FEARED, WE'RE HEADING INTO A TRICKY SITUATION HERE.
WE DON'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO SIT AROUND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER...


...SO I CHOSE TO MEASURE YOU MORE DIRECTLY.
...

BY THE WAY...
...I'M STARVING. CAN WE GET SOMETHING TO EAT?

...WHAT'S WITH THIS LADY...!?
YEAH?
カラ
2F
サロン
アミーホール
TOKYO
TEXA
スーパーヘア。
WAI (CHATTER)
WAI
ガヤ
GAYA
GAYA (MURMUR)
ガヤ

...I'M HERE IN TOKYO LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET AT THAT BOUNTY...
YOU GOT ANY INFORMATION?
ONLY THAT THE GIRL'S LAST LIVING RELATIVE IS HER GRAND-MOTHER.
...AHH...
SO WE START BY TAKIN' THE OLD BAT HOSTAGE.
...WON'T WORK...
HOSTAGE WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD WITHOUT A MEANS TO CONTACT THE OTHER SIDE.

PSH! SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN IN THE ASS TO ME.
KO (TUNK)
コツ
I SEE... SO THEY'RE HIDING OUT, YEAH?
WE COULD FOLLOW THE POLICE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR THEM.
THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO KILL THIS MODERN SAMURAI...
I HEAR HE DISPATCHED FANG WITH-OUT MUCH TROUBLE.
JUST START STIRRIN' UP TROUBLE HERE IN TOKYO...
...AND HE'LL COME AFTER US, RIGHT?
GUSHA (CRUNCH)
グシャッ

PLUS, THE GUY USES A SWORD! WE'VE GOT GUNS!
IT'LL BE EASY IF WE WORK TOGETHER. I CAN'T IMAGINE THE GROUP OF US IS WEAKER THAN FANG ALONE.

WE GET THE BOTH OF 'EM TOGETHER, AND THAT'S AN EASY HUNDRED MILLION APIECE.

YOU MIGHT BE ON TO SOMETHING.
...

...we can always find more people willing to jump for a bounty like that.

IT'S WORTH THE RISK, I'D SAY.
AND EVEN IF HE'S TOUGHER THAN WE'RE IMAGINING...

GAYA (MURMUR)
ガヤ
GAYA
ガヤ
...
It's probably worth working together for now, though.

AND IF IT ULTIMATELY COMES DOWN TO FUCKIN' SHIT UP...WELL, I'M GOOD WITH THAT.

THANK YOU, HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.
It'll be the last job I need to do for the rest of my life.

ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
コン
KON (KNOCK)
KON
C-CAPTAIN !?

PASA (FLAP)
UGH... URGH ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. STAY WHERE YOU ARE.
...
...FOR BEING UNABLE TO PERFORM MY DUTY...
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY...

D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WE SENT BLADE SOMEONE ELSE TO FILL IN FOR YOU.
...YEAH.
YOU HAVEN'T HAD A BREAK SINCE THE OPERATION BEFORE LAST.
YOU NEED YOUR REST.
GYU (SQUEEZE)
ALL I DID WAS GET CAUGHT BY THE ENEMY AND TAKEN HOSTAGE...
I HAVEN'T DONE A THING OF USE TO ANYONE.

I NO LONGER HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE ...
...THAT I CAN HELP THAT POOR GIRL...
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU.
THE SIERRA I KNOW ISN'T SO WEAK...
...
I WAS PRACTICALLY HELPLESS AGAINST THAT ASSAS-SIN!

KOKU (NOD)
FANG? THAT'S HIS NAME!?
...AH...
YOU MEAN FANG...
I DON'T THINK I COULD'VE CAUGHT HIM MYSELF.
HE'S A WORLD-CLASS KILLER.
CAPTAIN... YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT CONSOLING A WOMAN.
KUSU (SNORT)

.....
I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A FAMILY MAN...
CUT ME SOME SLACK...
THIS IS JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF...BUT I'M ASSUMING MOST OF THE SCUM OUT THERE ARE WORKING ON THE SAME PLAN...
SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

KO
コツ
KO
(TOK)
コツ
TA
(TEK)
タタッ
TA
KACHI
(CLICK)
カチ
LOVE
SKULL

Until
Death
do us
Part

KO
(TOK)
コツ
KO
コツ
...
K. JRO
!?

chapter 44

chapter 44

HA (GASP)
HEY...
I'M BACK HERE.
!!

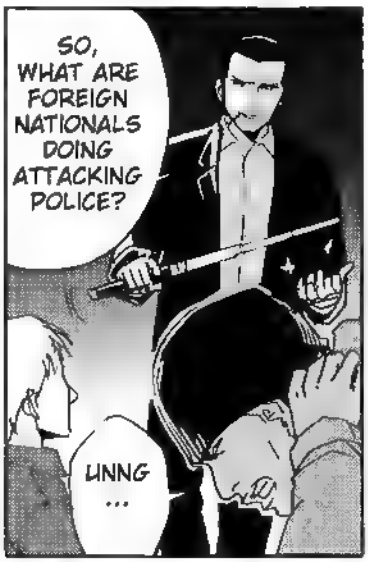
DO (WHAM)
ZUKA (SLICE)
DAN (STOMP)
DON (THUD?)

...NOT A GOOD IDEA TO ATTACK A COP...

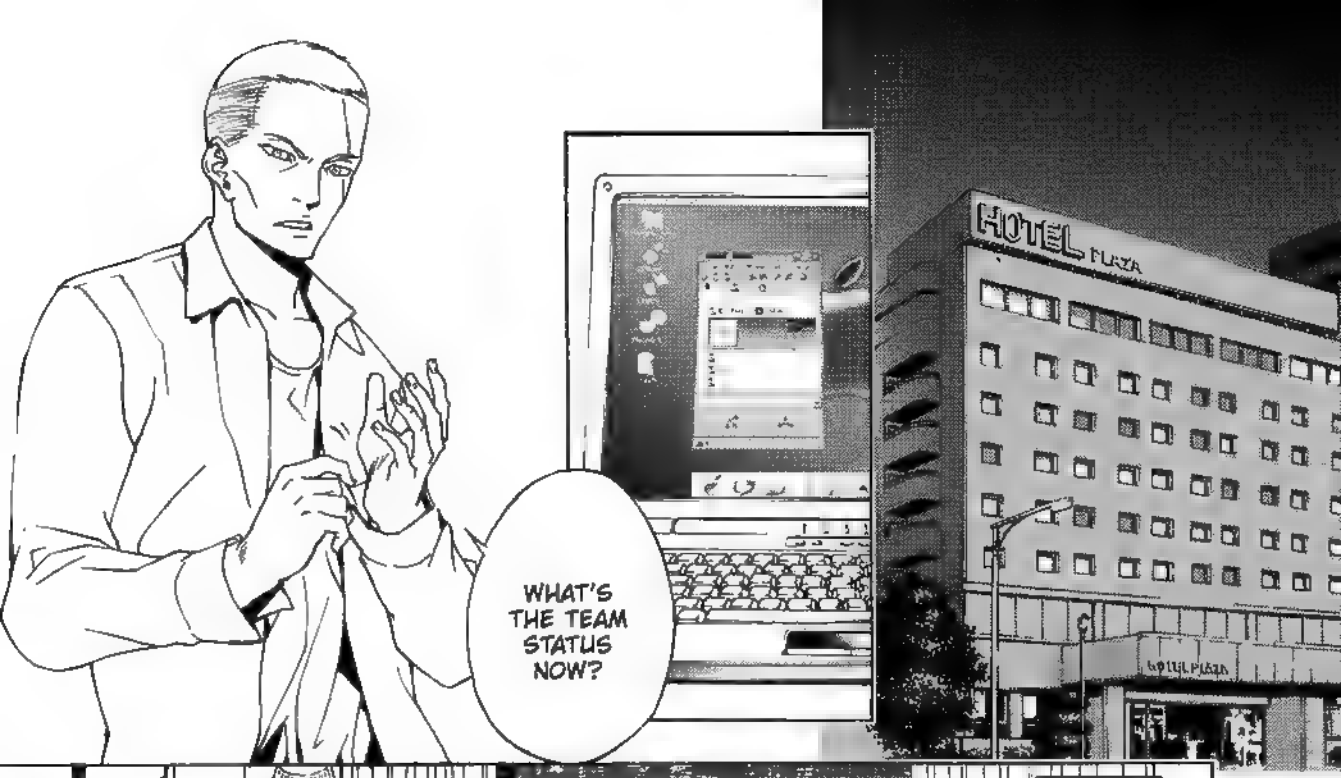
DOZAA (WHOMP)
AAAH!

SURE I AM!
JUST A SIMPLE POLICE OFFICER, PROTECTOR OF THE PEACE AND UPHOLDER OF JUSTICE.

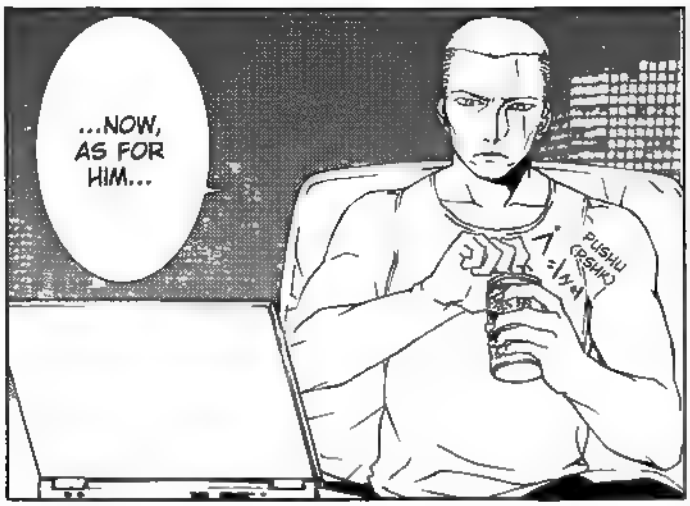
Y-YOU AIN'T NO REGULAR BEAT COP!

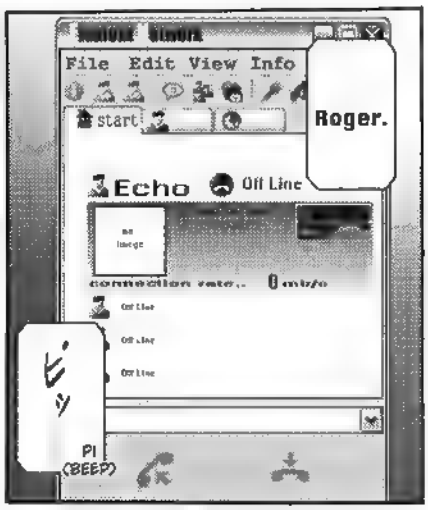

SO, WHAT ARE FOREIGN NATIONALS DOING ATTACKING POLICE?
UNNG ...

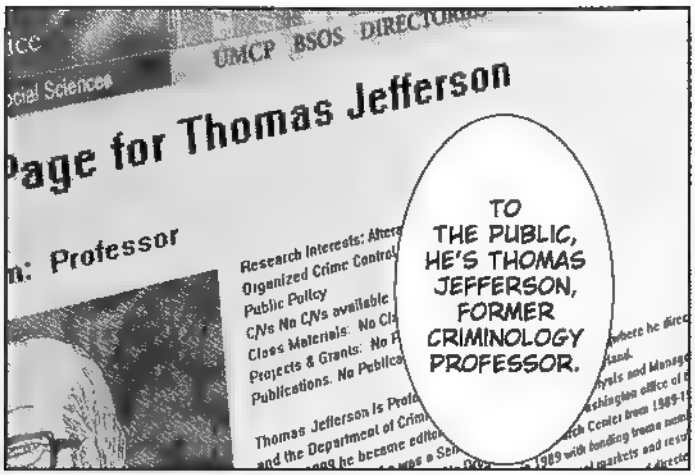
BUT ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO CRACK SKULLS TOGETHER.


HOTEL PLAZA
WHAT'S THE TEAM STATUS NOW?

KEEP THEM WHERE THEY ARE FOR NOW. TIMING IS CRUCIAL FOR THIS OPERATION.
Echo Team is in place and concealed as directed.
We can move into action at any time.


...NOW, AS FOR HIM...
PUSHU (PSHK)

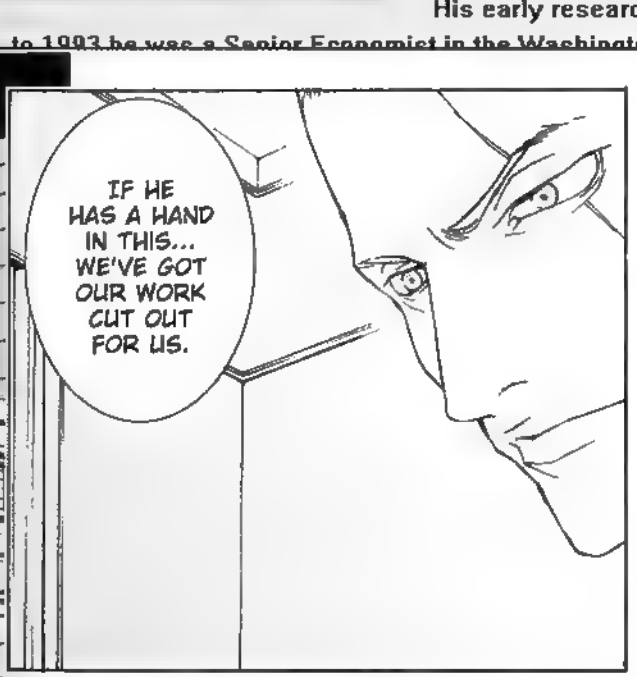

File Edit View Info
start
Roger.
Echo
Off Line
connection rate..
0 mb/s
PI (BEEP)

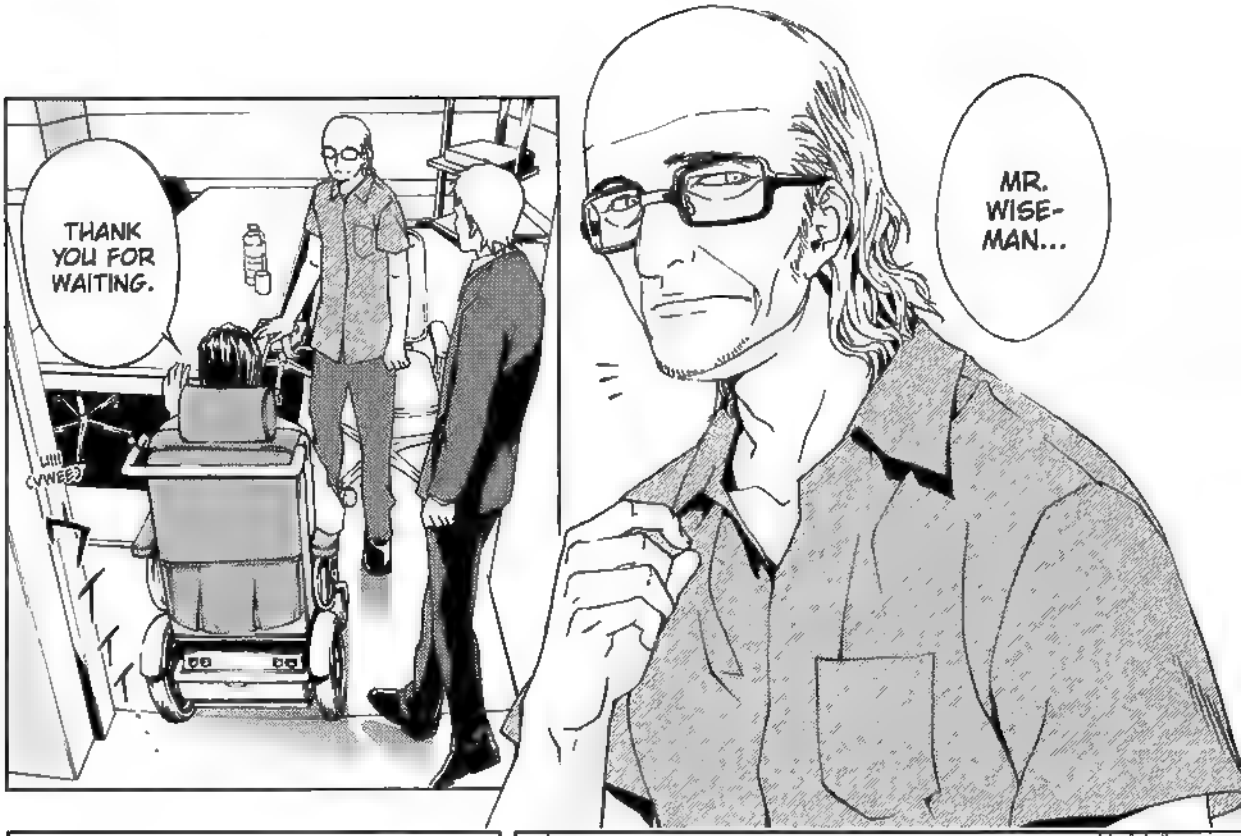

UMCP BSOS DIRECTORIES
Page for Thomas Jefferson
n: Professor
TO THE PUBLIC, HE'S THOMAS JEFFERSON, FORMER CRIMINOLOGY PROFESSOR.

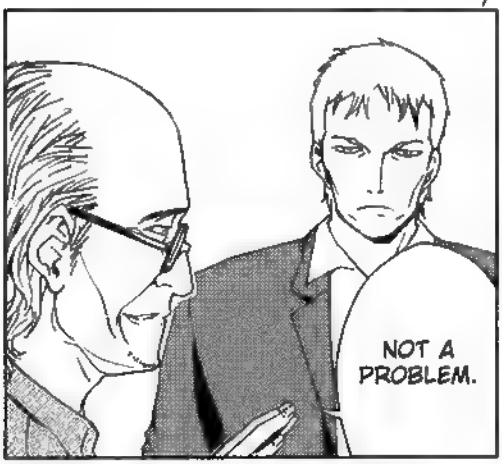
KATA (TAP)
KATA

AND THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TO WORK WITH...
IN THE UNDERGROUND, HE'S A CRIMINAL MASTERMIND WHO GOES BY THE ALIAS "WISEMAN."
College Park

HOTEL PARKROYAL


IF HE HAS A HAND IN THIS... WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US.


THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
MR. WISE-MAN...

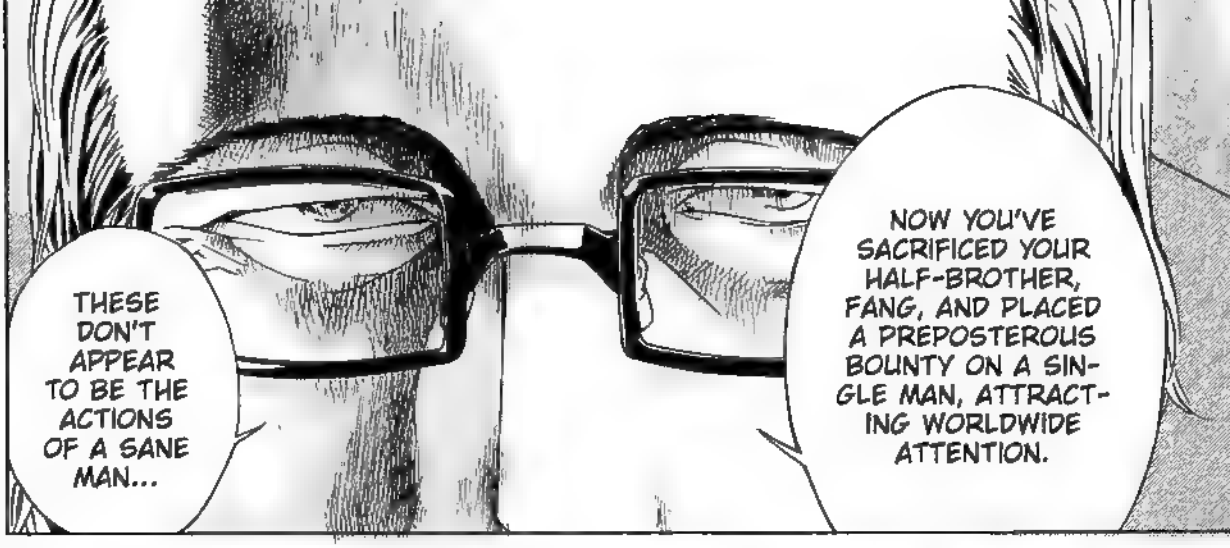

NOT A PROBLEM.

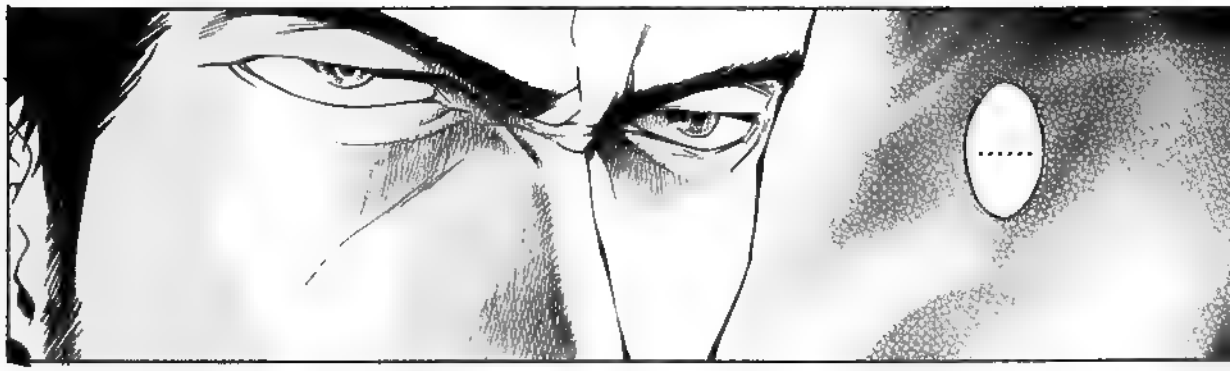
SO THIS IS THE CRIMINAL FIXER WHO TAUGHT EDGE TURUS HOW TO WORK IN THE UNDER-WORLD...
WISE-MAN...

I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR NOT STANDING. I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, I'M AFRAID.

INTERESTING... HE'S GOT SOME ROUGHS IN HIS ENTOURAGE...
SO WHY HAVEN'T YOU HIRED ME TO KILL HIM? YOU TOOK A RISK IN CALLING ME HERE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS BOUNTY MUST BE ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER IF HE COULD PUT A MODEL STUDENT LIKE YOU IN THIS CONDITION.

TON (TAP)
YOU KNOW THAT GALBOA IS PLACING THE BLAME FOR THE PLUNDERERS ON YOUR BACK AND WANTS TO SILENCE YOU NOW THAT YOU'RE PARALYZED, RIGHT?
!?
...
WHAT IF I'D BEEN HIRED BY GALBOA TO DEAL WITH YOU?


THESE DON'T APPEAR TO BE THE ACTIONS OF A SANE MAN...
NOW YOU'VE SACRIFICED YOUR HALF-BROTHER, FANG, AND PLACED A PREPOSTEROUS BOUNTY ON A SINGLE MAN, ATTRACTING WORLDWIDE ATTENTION.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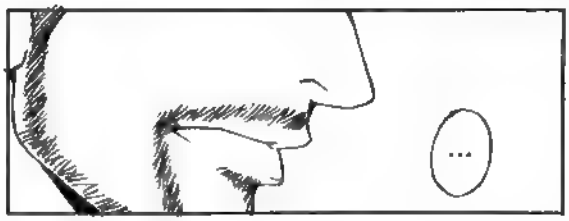

...

I WANT TO HIRE YOU FOR A DIFFERENT JOB FIRST, PROFESSOR.
WHAT IS IT?

BUT JUST KILLING HIM ISN'T ENOUGH, IS IT...?
THAT'S HOW MUCH YOU HATE THIS MAN?

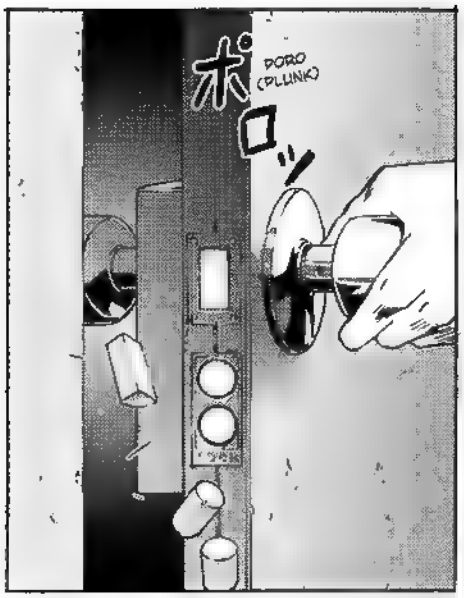
TO HELP WITH KOMURA'S PLAN...
SU (BOW)
...AND DISSECT THE DATA ON OUR TARGET THAT FANG LEFT BEHIND.
I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE NO INTEREST IN MONEY.
GALBOA'S SATELLITE STATE DUHANA HAS SOME RARE METAL DEPOSITS WE CAN OFFER YOU FOR DEVELOPMENT.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IF IT'S SOMETHING BORING LIKE A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.
...AND THE PAY-MENT?

YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF AN INVESTMENT THAT WOULD BE.
YOU COULD TURN IT INTO ANYTHING YOU WANTED.
NOW THAT'S AN INTERESTING CARROT TO DANGLE...
...
YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO FINISH THE HUNT AFTER YOU'VE DONE THIS.
LOOK, HE'S NOT GOING TO FALL TO THE KIND OF FOOLS WHO WILL JUMP FOR A MONETARY PRIZE LIKE THAT.
I SAW ONE NOTEWORTHY MAN AT NARITA AIRPORT...
IF HE'S AFTER OUR BOUNTY, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE MUCH TIME AFTER ALL.

Oriental
Asahi
ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
fuck
B3
HEY...
ピピッ
PIPI (BEEP)

BA (SWISH)
!?
DAN (STOMP)
BAK! (CRACK)
DON (THUDD)

GASHAA
(CRASH)

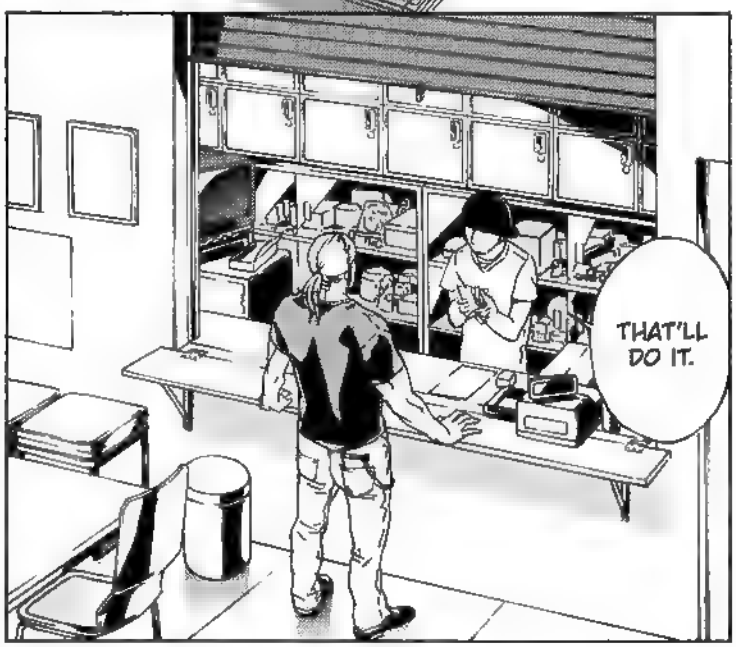

ポロッ
DORO
(PLUNK)

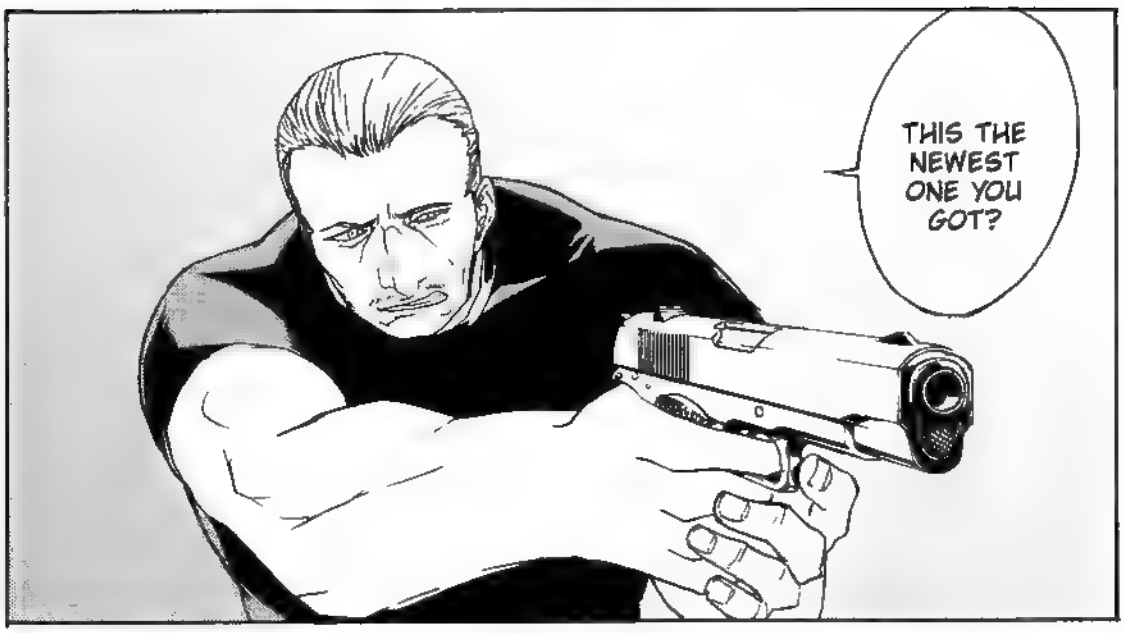
ヒュー
HYUN
(SLASH)

キン
KIN
(CLANG)
キン
KIN

BASA (FLAP)
FB53042233A
100

.....
GOTO (THUNK)

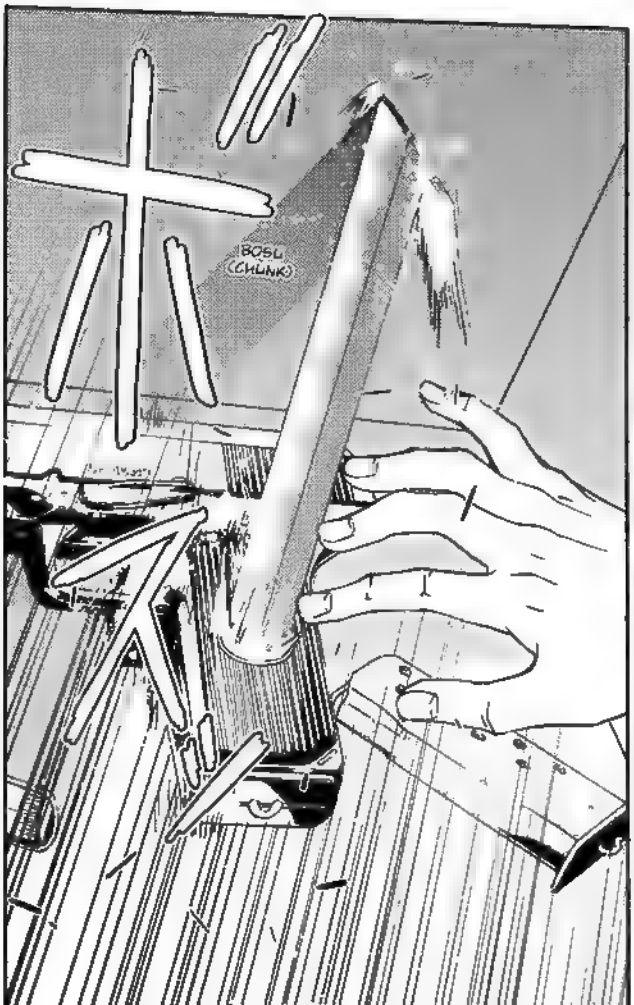

THAT'LL DO IT.


THIS THE NEWEST ONE YOU GOT?

MINE COMES ON THE NEXT FLIGHT, SEVEN DAYS FROM NOW. I AIN'T GONNA SIT AROUND UNARMED UNTIL THEN.
GUNS HAVE BEEN SCARCE SINCE THAT BOUNTY CAME OUT.
IF YOU DIDN'T BRING YOUR OWN, YOU GET WHAT YOU GET.
...OOH...
IT'S FOR JAPANESE AIRGUNS, BUT IT'LL DO THE JOB.
PON (PLOP)
THIS ONE'S ON THE HOUSE.
BA
BA (WHISK)
THIS IS GOOD STUFF.

TWO HUNDRED SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
HOW MANY?
GET ME SOME 9MM PARABEL-LUMS.
DOSU (SHNK)

DOSA
(THUMP)
!?


BOSU
(CHUNK)

BA
(LEAP)

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DOING A BRISK BUSINESS.
A-ARE YOU...?

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M THE GUY WITH THE BOUNTY ON HIS HEAD.

AAAAH!

TON (TAP)
I'M GONNA LET YOU LIVE.
ASSUMING YOU FOLLOW DIRECTIONS, THAT IS.
H-HELP...
HUH!?
B-BUT...
SHOW IT TO EVERY CUSTOMER YOU GET.
THIS URL GIVES THE LOCATION WHERE I CAN BE FOUND IN ONE WEEK.
www.prizeneck.com
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'LL TAKE DOWN EVERY SINGLE ONE OF 'EM.

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 45

GACHA (CLICK)
fuck
KIII (SCREECH)
GO.

プオオ
www.prizeneck.com

DON'T GO OVER-BOARD.
BLOOO (VRRM)
DON'T SPARE THAT SHIT A SECOND THOUGHT.
...BUT RAISING HELL IS GOING TO GET THEM RILED UP AGAIN.
THE NETWORK WASN'T TOO DOWN ON YOU AFTER THE LAST INCIDENT...
?
Y-YEAH... BUT...
THEY'RE GONNA DISRESPECT US.
THE ENEMY AIN'T GONNA BE SCARED IF WE PLAY CLEAN AND HONORABLE.

...
HARUKA
...
IF THINGS GET OUT OF HAND HERE, WHO SUFFERS?
I'M GOING TO CRUSH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM.
AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANY OF THOSE MOTHERFUCKERS GET WHAT THEY WANT.
I DON'T DO ANYTHING BY HALF.

I'M GONNA ROUND THEM UP AND FINISH ALL OF THEM.

...THIS IS GONNA GET UGLY...

BUOOOO GYURRM
...

TIME TO DIG IN!
PAN (SMACK)

HAAAH... I WISH I COULD HAVE GONE ALONG TODAY...

...
THIS LOOKS YUMMY.
PU PU

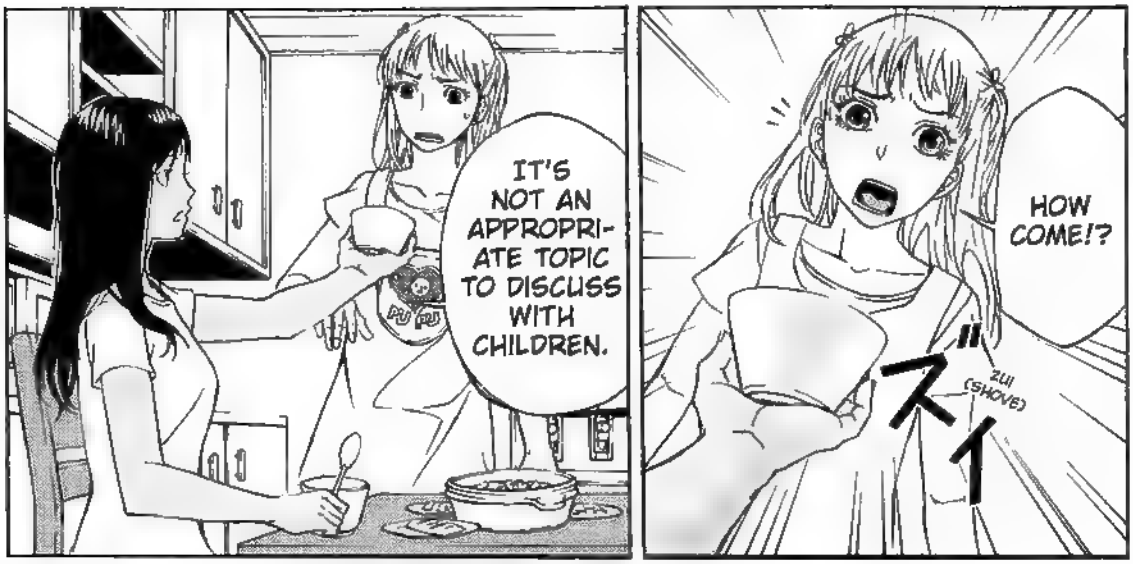
ALREADY?
MOGU CMUNCH
MOGU
MORE, PLEASE.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
...WHAT, THEN?
WHAT? ARE YOU ALREADY OUT OF RICE?
UM...
UM... WHY DO YOU HATE SIERRA-SAN SO MUCH?

...
WHY NOW? IT'LL RUIN THE FOOD.
TON (THUNK)
トン

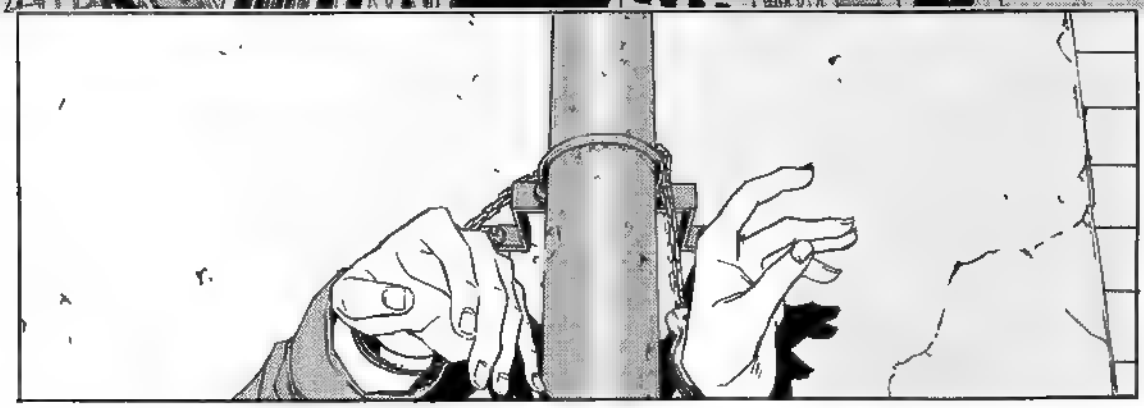
...BECAUSE SHE CLINGS TO HER DEAD DAUGHTER AND WON'T LET GO.
THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR HER TO START OVER...

SPEAK-
ING OF
WHICH,
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU!?

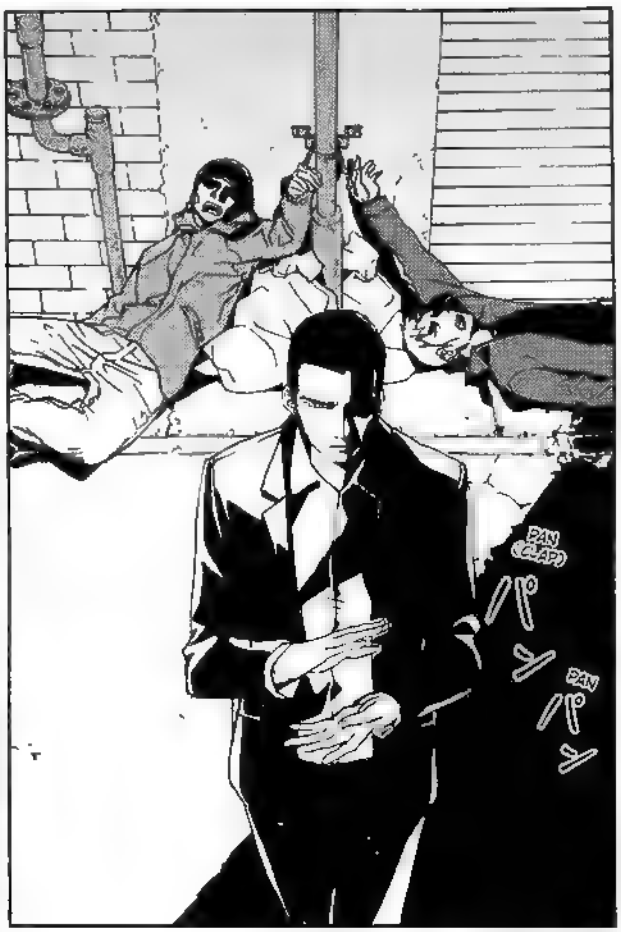
...THAT'S
A SE-
CRET...
HUH
!?


IT'S
NOT AN
APPROPRI-
ATE TOPIC
TO DISCUSS
WITH
CHILDREN.
HOW
COME!?
ZUI
(SHOVE)

SUTA
SUTA (STOMP)
スタ
スタ
HELP YOURSELF, THEN!
AAH!
...FOOD ALWAYS TASTES BETTER WHEN IT'S SERVED BY SOMEONE ELSE...
WELL... I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE ACTING SO IMMATURE IN FRONT OF A KID...



...IF THERE'S A HUGE BOUNTY ON HIJIKATA AND HARUKA ...

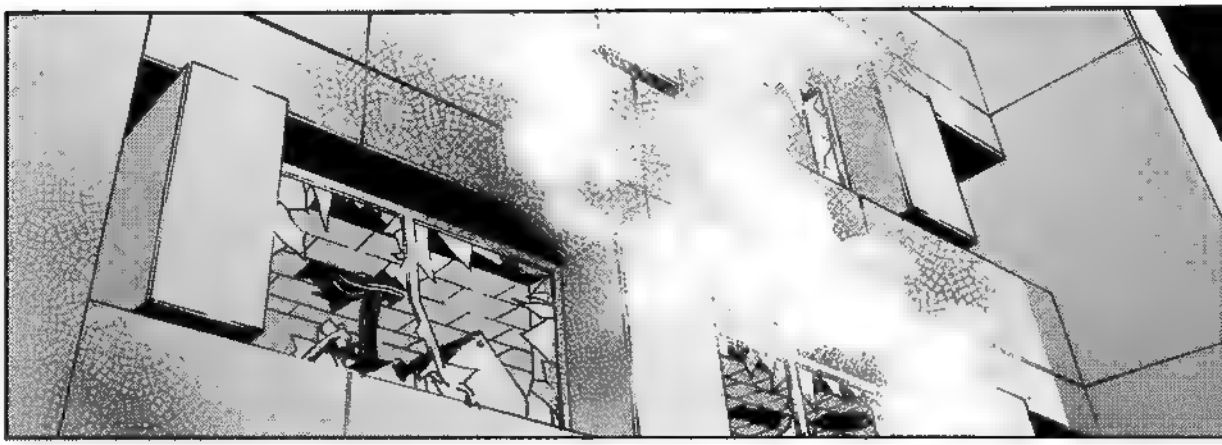

PAN (CLAP)
パン
PAN
パン

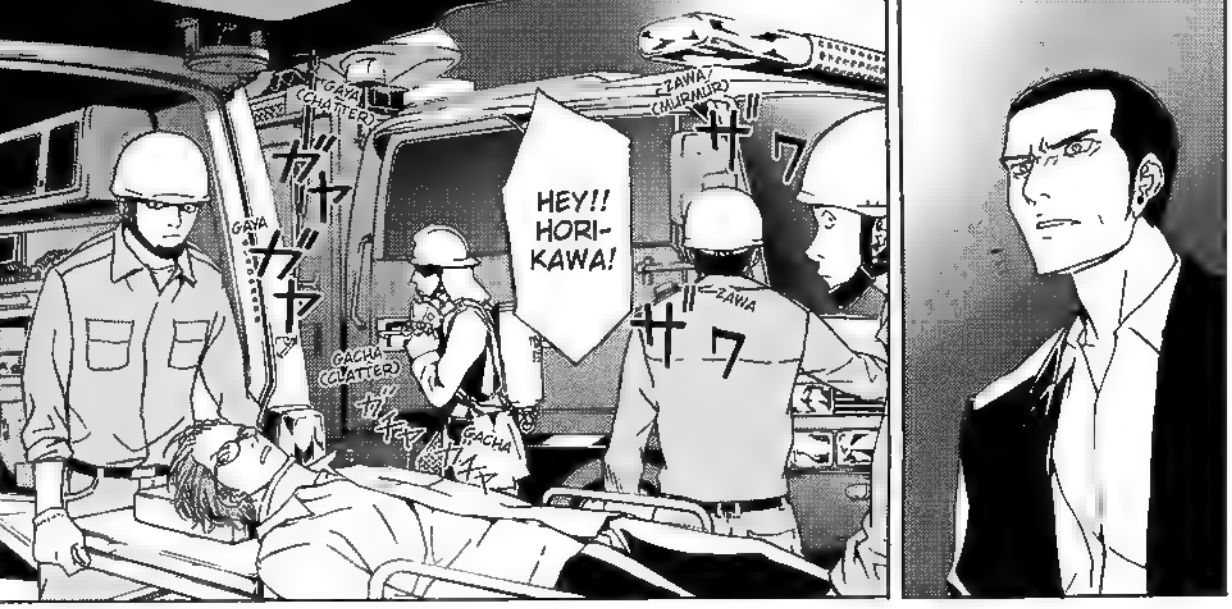
...THEN I OUGHT TO GO BACK TO THE STATION TO START PLANNING.

!?
WHA...?

MOVE IT!
OUTTA THE WAY!!

ザワ
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ザワ

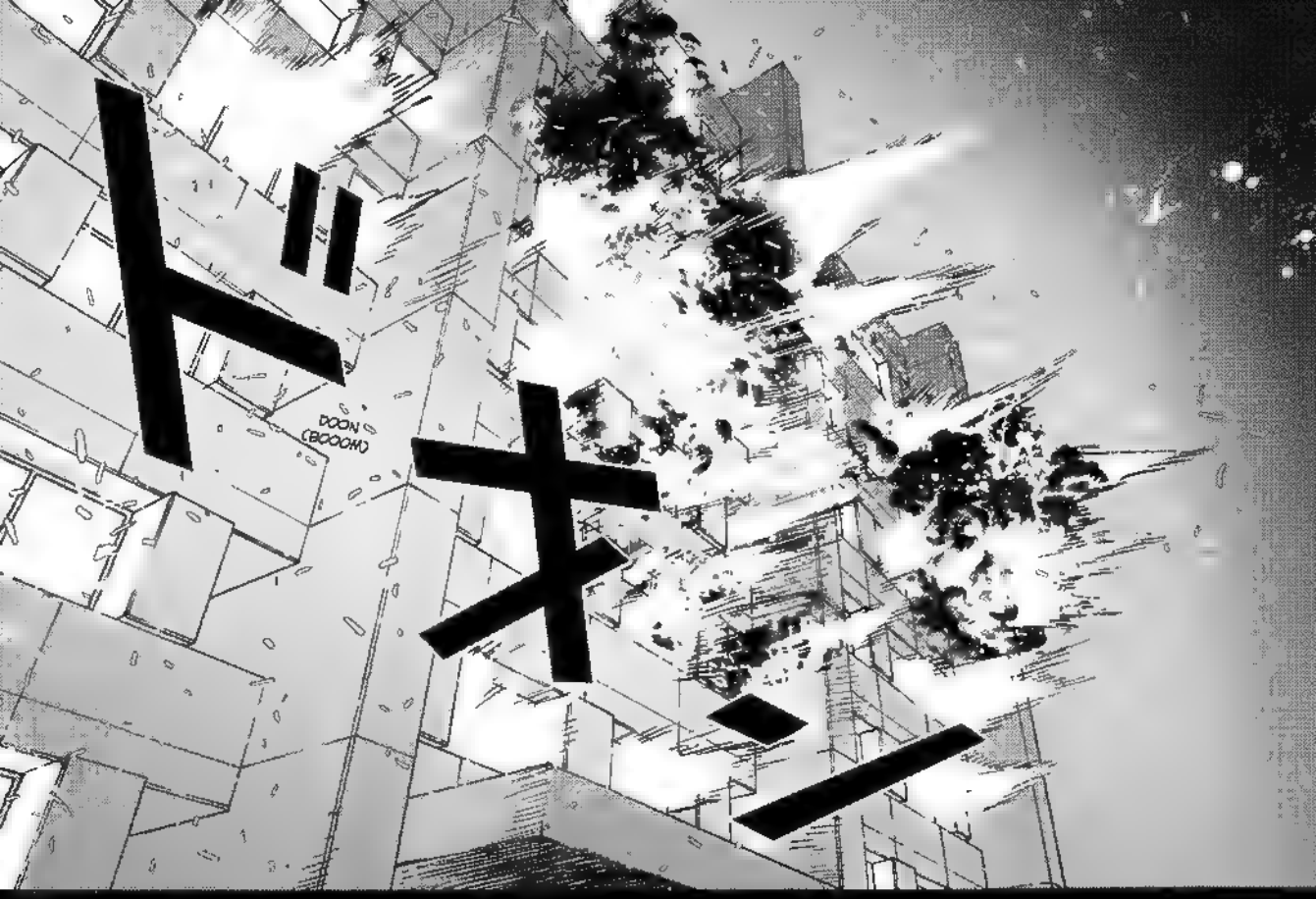



GAYA (CHATTER)
ZAWA (MURMUR)
HEY!! HORI-KAWA!
GAYA
ZAWA
GACHA (CLATTER)
GACHA

GENDA-SAN!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

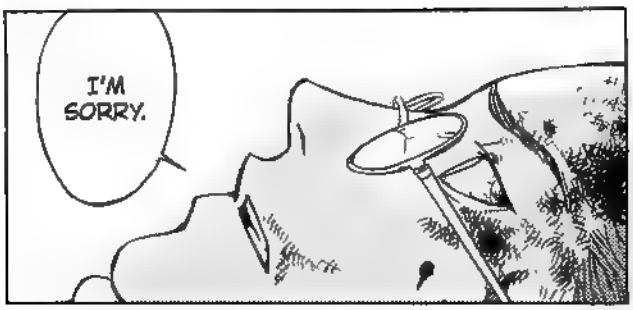
WHAT HAPPENED !?

I DON'T KNOW.
I WAS DOING PAPERWORK AT MY DESK, WHEN...
DON (BAM)
DON
HEY!
?
WHO'S THERE !?
KA (FLASH)
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ

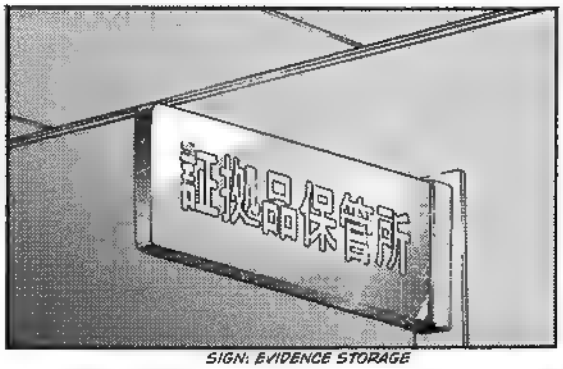

DOON
(BOOOM)

...ALL RIGHT. GET SOME REST AT THE HOSPITAL.

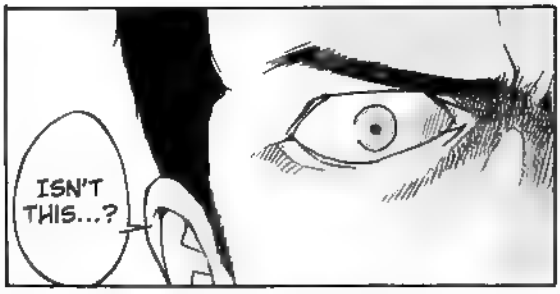
A PIECE OF SOMETHING MUST HAVE HIT ME IN THE HEAD.
NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS HERE.

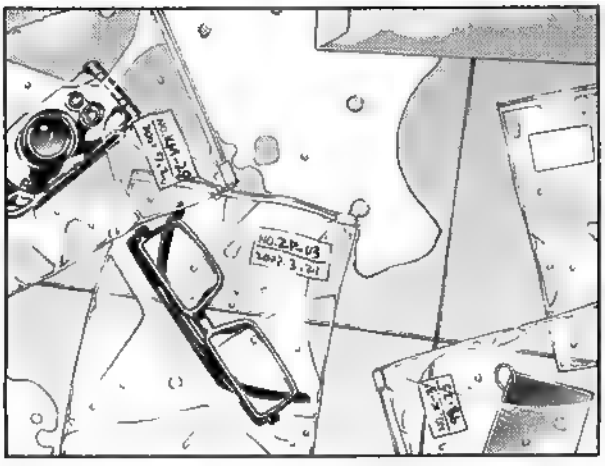

I'M SORRY.

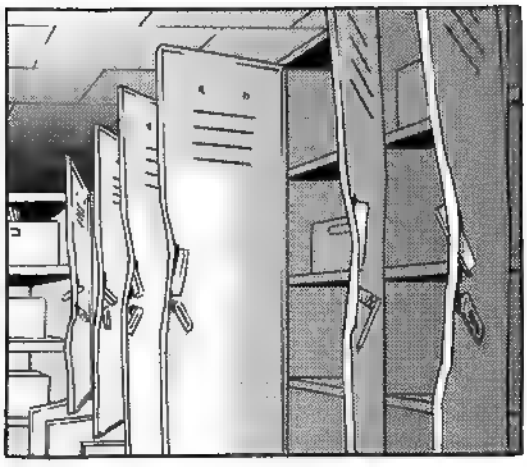
.....
IT'S NOT SAFE IN THERE.
KA (TOK)
KA
GACHA
CAGMA (CRUNCH)
PARIN (CLINK)



SIGN: EVIDENCE STORAGE







DOSA (THUMP)
GASHA (SLAM)
GATA
GATA (SLAM)
DAN (WHAM)
GONE!
THEY STOLE FANG'S COMPUTER!
...THIS MUST BE EDGE TURUS'S WORK...

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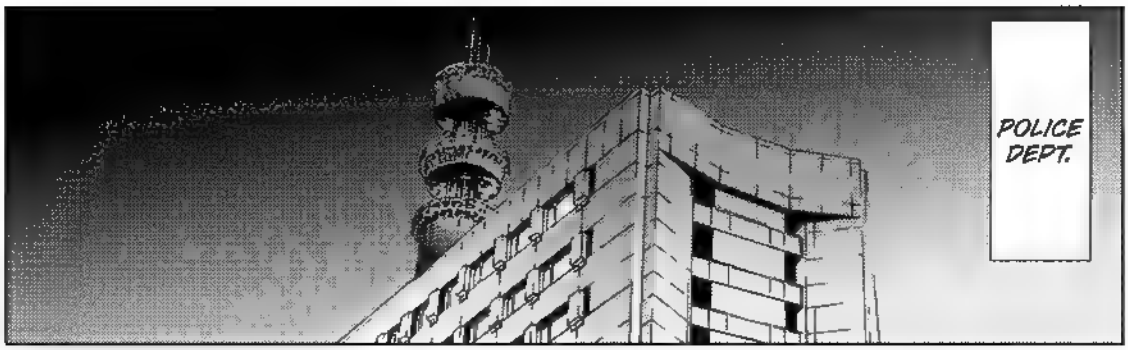
Until
Death
do us
Part

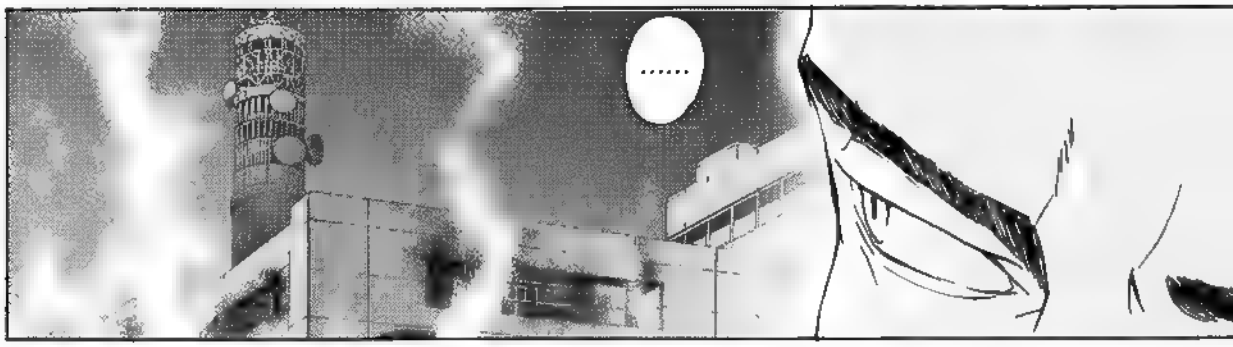
chapter 46



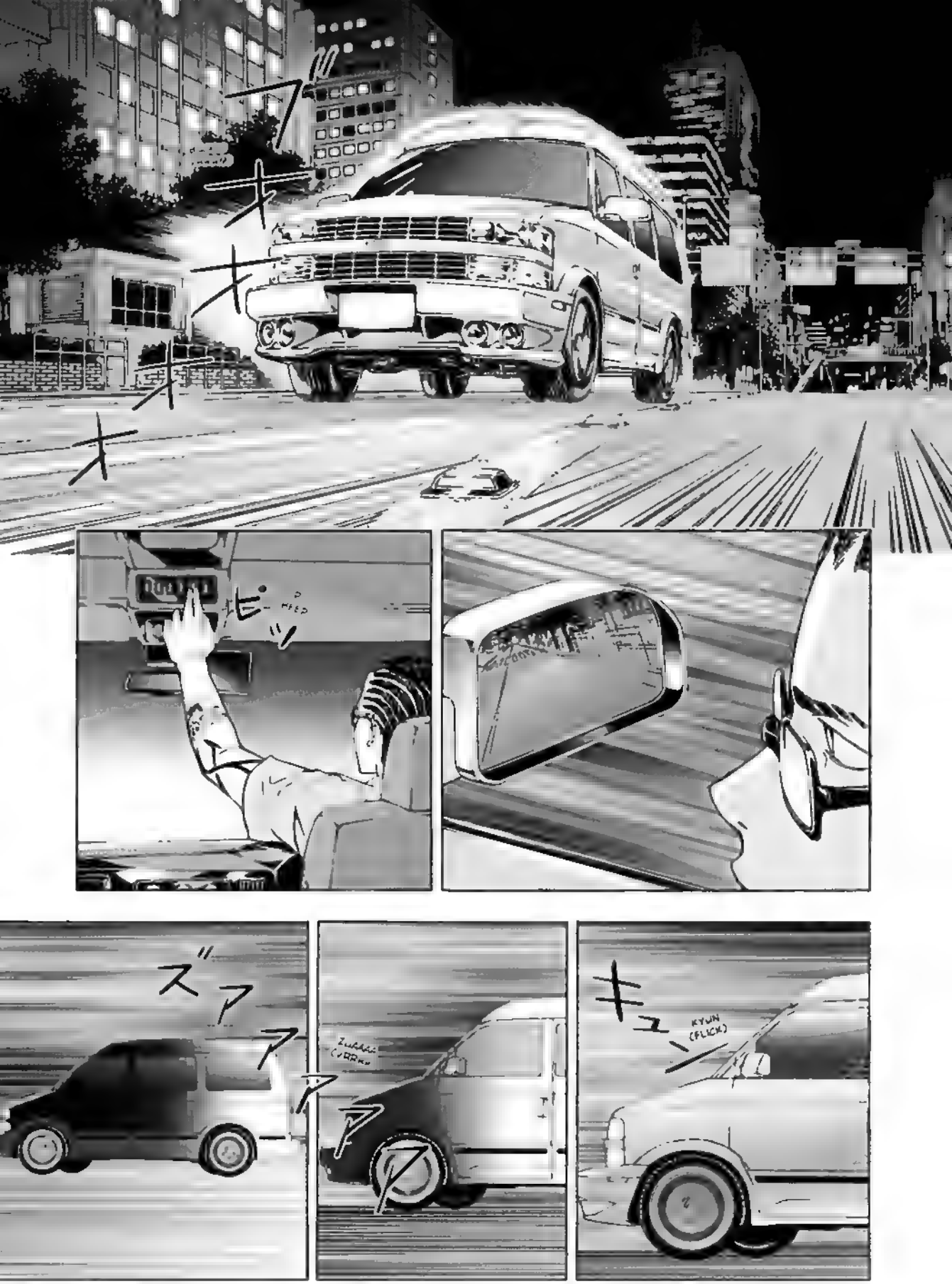
SIGN: FIRST INVESTIGATION SECTION

OF COURSE I'M ALL RIGHT!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, SIR!?
I COULDN'T REACH YOUR CELL BACK AT THE SCENE, SO I WAS WORRIED.
CONVINCE THE CHIEF TO FOCUS THE INVESTIGATION ON THAT ANGLE.
FANG'S COMPUTER AND THE REMAINS OF HIS REMOTE MACHINES HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM THE STATION.
I've got to prioritize my current assign-ment.
HUH? WHAT ABOUT YOU!?

Huh...? What have you gotten yourself into this time?
ALSO, SEND FOUR OR FIVE MEN TO THE FOLLOWING LOCATION.
YOU'LL FIND SOME FOREIGNERS WHO TRIED TO ATTACK AN OFFICER BEING HELD THERE.


.....

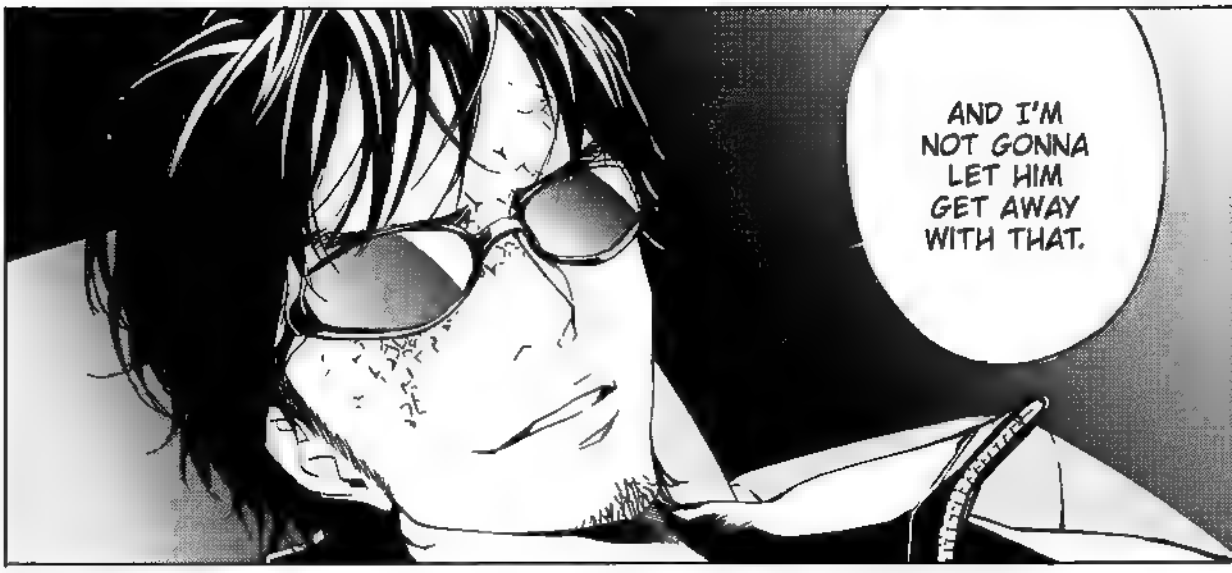
.....
WHAT I DID IS LESS THAN IMPORTANT.
ALL HELL'S BREAKING LOOSE THESE DAYS.


ブオオオオオオ
ピー
BEEP
ズアアアアアア
ZURRRR (VERRR)
キュー
KYUN (FLICK)

COLOR
CHANGE
ピ
PII
(BEEP)
90%
KIKII
(SCREECH)

BLON (VRRM)
KIKIKI
HEY.
ZZZ...
WHY TAKE SUCH EXTREME MEASURES TO LAY THIS INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS TRAP?

RIGHT.
...OUR BOY PLACED A HUGE BOUNTY ON US, HOPING TO WEAR US DOWN BY SHEER FORCE OF NUMBERS...
WELL, YOU SEE...

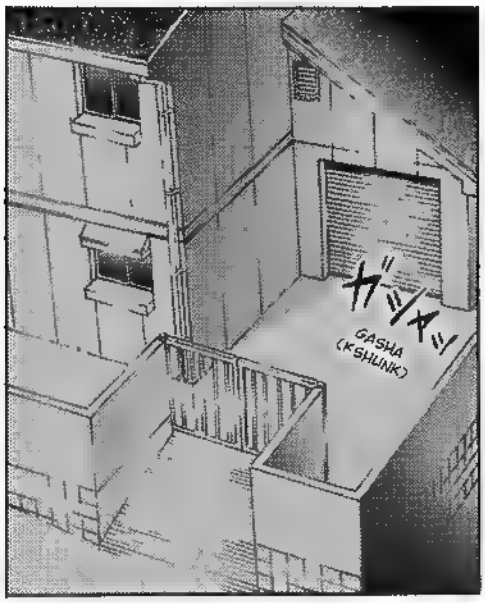

AND I'M NOT GONNA LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THAT.

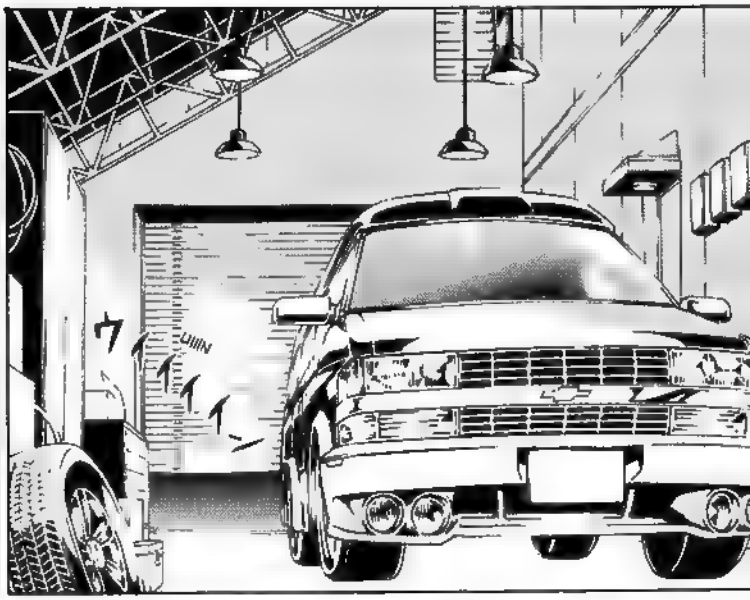
WHAT OTHER REASON DO WE NEED?

WHAAAT??? TH-THAT'S IT!?

FORGET IT...
THIS GUY THINKS HE CAN FUCK US OVER LIKE THAT? WELL, I'LL SHOW HIM.
HE'S JUST A STUBBORN CHILD!
MODE
ON/OFF
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR EDGE TURUS, PICKING A FIGHT WITH AN ANTISOCIAL WEIRDO LIKE THIS GUY...

ブロロロ…
BURORORO
(VRRM)
ウィーン
UIIN
(VWEE)


ガシャ
GASHA
(KSHUNK)


ウィーン
UIIN

OH…

HEYA, KIDDO.
WELCOME BACK.
WHAT !?
...YOU DIDN'T NEED TO STAY UP ALL NIGHT FOR US...
C'MON, DON'T BE A JERK.
BUT I WAS WAITING FOR YOU!

YOUR REAL JOB IS HITTING THE BOOKS.

IGAWA WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO GET YOU INTO SCHOOL.
DON'T PAY HIM BACK BY NOT TAKING IT SERIOUSLY.

SUTA (STOMP)
FINE!
GOOD-NIGHT!!
SUTA

バタン
BATAN (SLAM)

NYEHH!

I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT A GUARDIAN WAS SUPPOSED TO DO.
OF COURSE SHE'S MAD, DUDE...
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
HAVE I BEEN SPOILING HER A BIT TOO MUCH...?
...
SHE WAS LEFT AT HOME ALONE.
SHE'S JUST WORRIED.
...BUT ALL HE SEES IS A LITTLE GIRL...
SHE THINKS HE'S HER FUTURE HUSBAND ...

WITH THAT BIG OF A GAP IN THEIR EXPECTATIONS, IT'S NO WONDER THERE WILL BE HURT FEELINGS...
BUT SPEAKING AS AN ADULT, I'D HAVE TO SAY MAMORU'S VIEW IS MORE FITTING...

KURU (ROLL)
クル

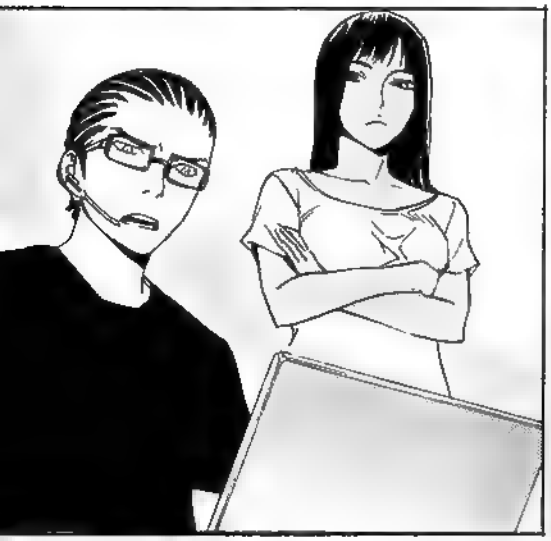
BON (BOMP)
ボン

STUPID MAMORU-SAN.

HUH?
.....

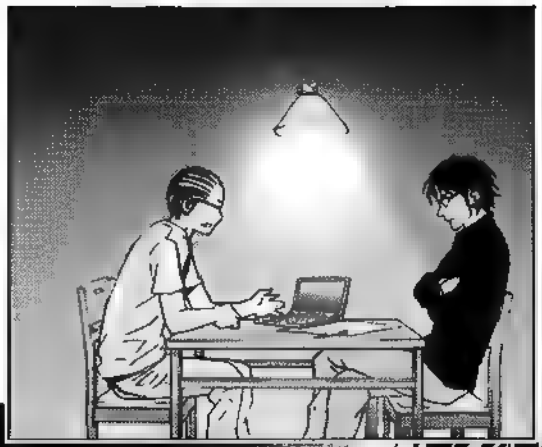
HAVE A GOOD DAY.
YEAH, YEAH.
...OFF TO SCHOOL...
THE NEXT DAY
ZZZ...
ZZZ...
WAI (CHATTER) WAI
ワイ
ワイ

File Edit View Info Help
start
Alfa
online



CHA
(CHIK)
チャッ

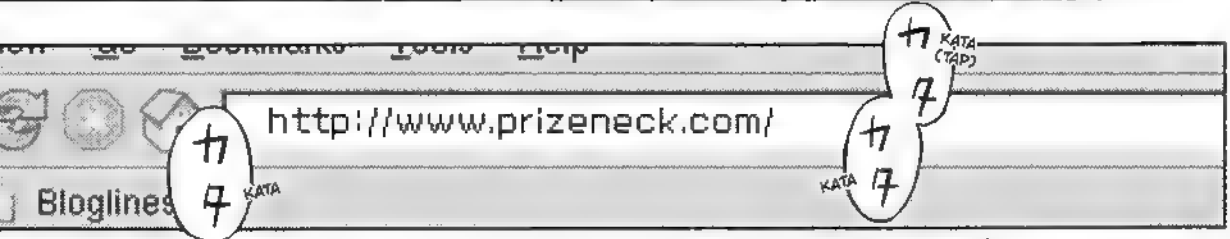
ビュン
BYUN
CSWISH



#1 D.P
#2
#3
#4
Sendasaya
Kokuritsukyogijo
Shinanomachi

カチ
KACHI
CCLICK

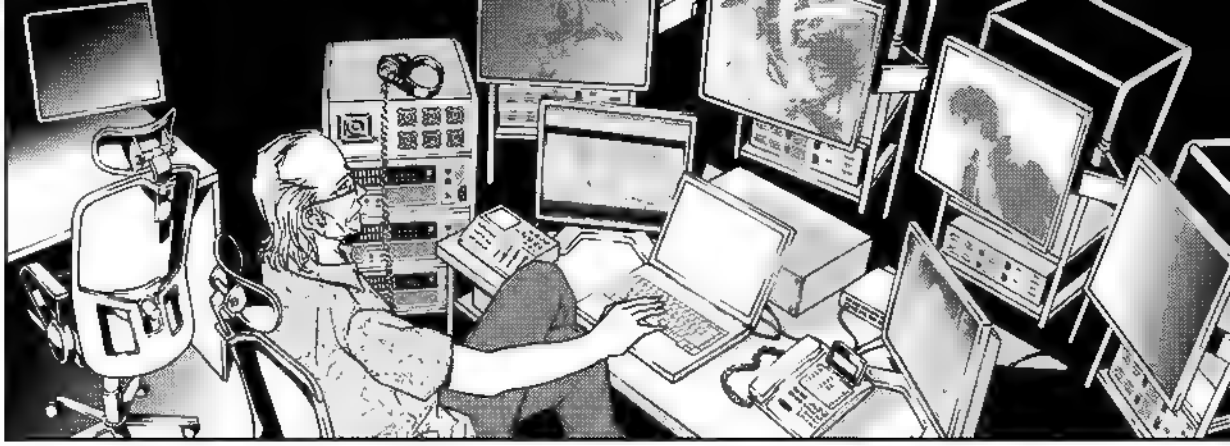
ONE WEEK LATER...

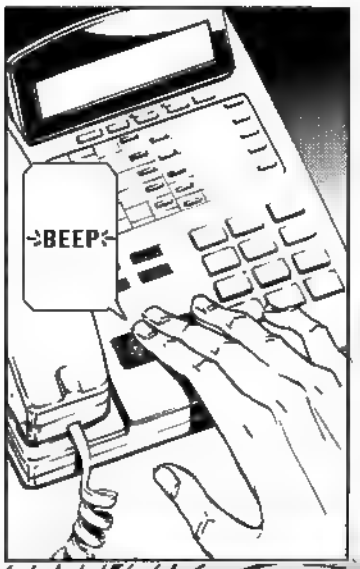

http://www.prizeneck.com/
Bloglines
カタ KATA
カタ KATA (TAP)
カタ KATA

here at 2:00AM on Monday.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
Shinjuku
Shinjukusanchome
SHINJUKU(1)
Shinjukugyoen-mae
AIZUMI-CHO
Yotsuyasanchome
HONSHIOCHO
DAIKYOCHO
SUGACHO
YOTSUYA(1)
YAKABA(1)
Yotsuya
Yoyogi
Hatsudai
Shinjuku

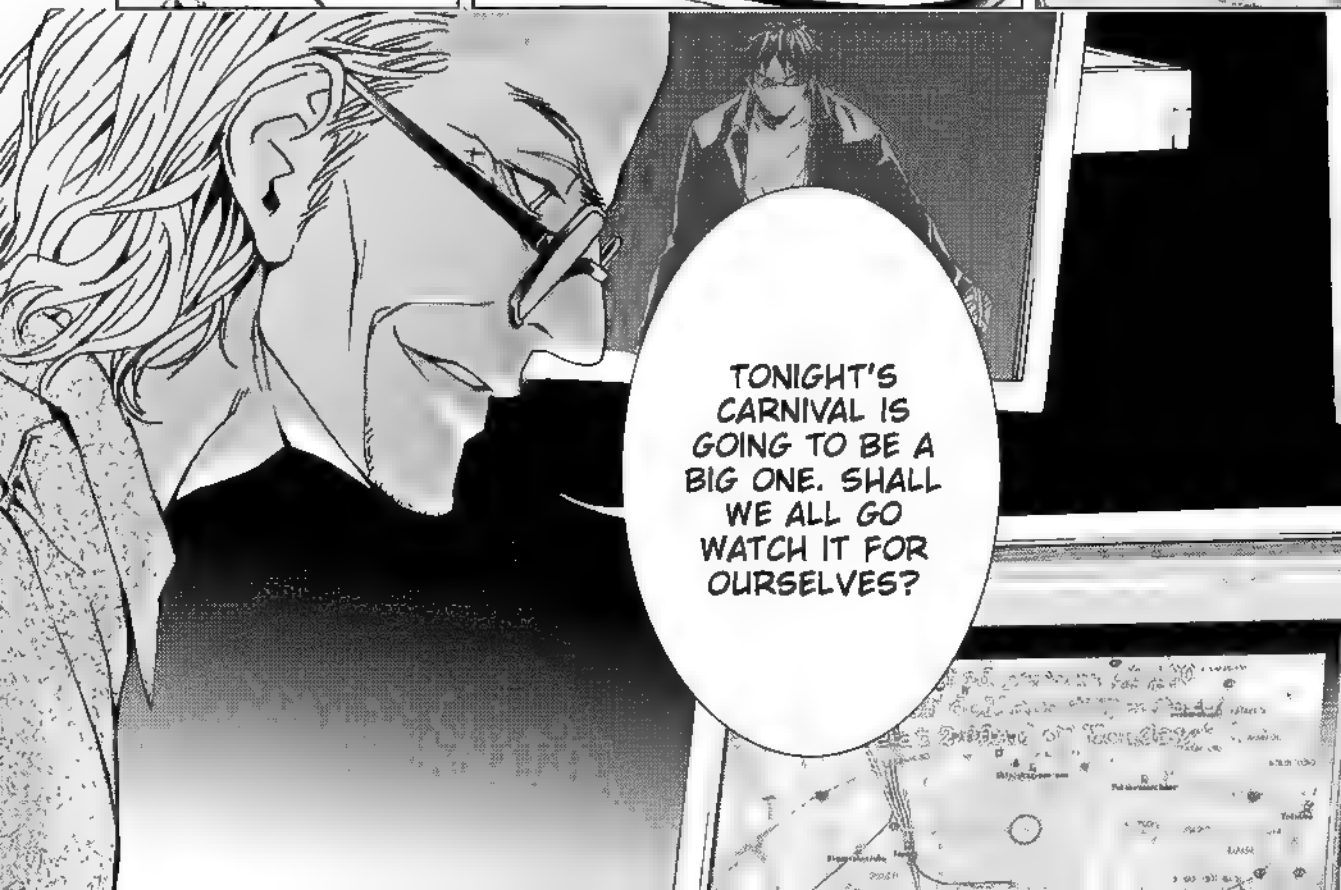
WHAT IS THIS!?
here at 2:00AM
Monday
Shinjuku
Shinjukusanchome
Shinjukugyoen
AIZUMICHO
2:00 A.M. TONIGHT?
WHAT IS THIS BULLSHIT ?

Z3N3CK
dit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help
http://www.prizeneck.com/
Go
Post Bloglines
PR1Z3N3CK
The wanted person worth 100 million dollars appears here at 2:00AM on Monday.
Shinjukunishiguchi
Shinjukusanchome
Shinjuku
Tocho-mae
SHINJUKU(1)
Shinjukugyoen-mae
Yotsuyasanchome
AIZUMICHO
ARAKICHO
FUNAMACHI
SAKAMACHI
DAIKYOCHO
SUGACHO
WAKABA(1)
YOTSUYA(1)
Minamishinjuku
Yoyogi
YOYOGI(1)
Sangubashi
Kokuritsukyogijo
Shinanomachi
MINAMI-MOTOMACHI
SENDAGAYA(1)
KASUMIGAOKAMACHI




BEEP

...NOW THIS IS INTEREST-ING...


TONIGHT'S CARNIVAL IS GOING TO BE A BIG ONE. SHALL WE ALL GO WATCH IT FOR OURSELVES?

Until
Death
do us
Part

GMT
Club
SIGN SHINJUKU STATION
新宿駅
新宿三丁目

SIGN: —CAN YOU NAME THESE PLANTS?— / SHINJUKU GYOEN

SHIN-
JUKU
GYOEN
chapter 47

IDIOTS...
WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF TRAPS ARE SET IN THERE?
IT AIN'T GONNA BE THAT SIMPLE.
WE CAN GET IN SAFELY AS LONG AS WE TRACE THEIR STEPS.

WE COULD ALSO WAIT FOR HIM TO CLEAN UP THE OTHERS AND GET TIRED...
WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE ON OUR ASSES WHILE SOMEONE ELSE MAKES OFF WITH THE BOUNTY.
IF WE HAVE THE TIME, WE COULD EVEN LAY TRAPS OF OUR OWN.
IF HE'S AS TOUGH AS THEY SAY, IT'LL MAKE OUR JOB THAT MUCH EASIER.
JUST HEAR ME OUT.
...
ジロ
JIRO (GLARE)
WE ONLY LET YOU IN BECAUSE YOU KNOW TOKYO LIKE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND!
...
SHUT THE FUCK UP, NEWBIE!

LET'S SLIP INTO THE GARDEN AMONG THE OTHER FOOLS AND WAIT FOR OUR CHANCE TO STRIKE.
ZA (ZSH)
ACTUALLY, THAT AIN'T A BAD IDEA.
TCH!
.....

NOT MANY SNIPING POINTS, BUT THIS ONE MIGHT DO.
KACHA (CLINK)
KACHA
YEAH, WE'LL MANAGE.
HMM? WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
SHIT.
IT WON'T OPEN, EVEN THOUGH I CRACKED THE LOCK.
H... HEY...
WHAT?

!?

SHIT!!

.....

STALL'S OCCUPIED. FIND ANOTHER ONE!

SASA (SWISH)
MOVE IN.
ALL READY?
CHA (CHK)
ZA (ZSH)
YOU'RE AN HOUR EARLY.
LET'S NOT BE HASTY.

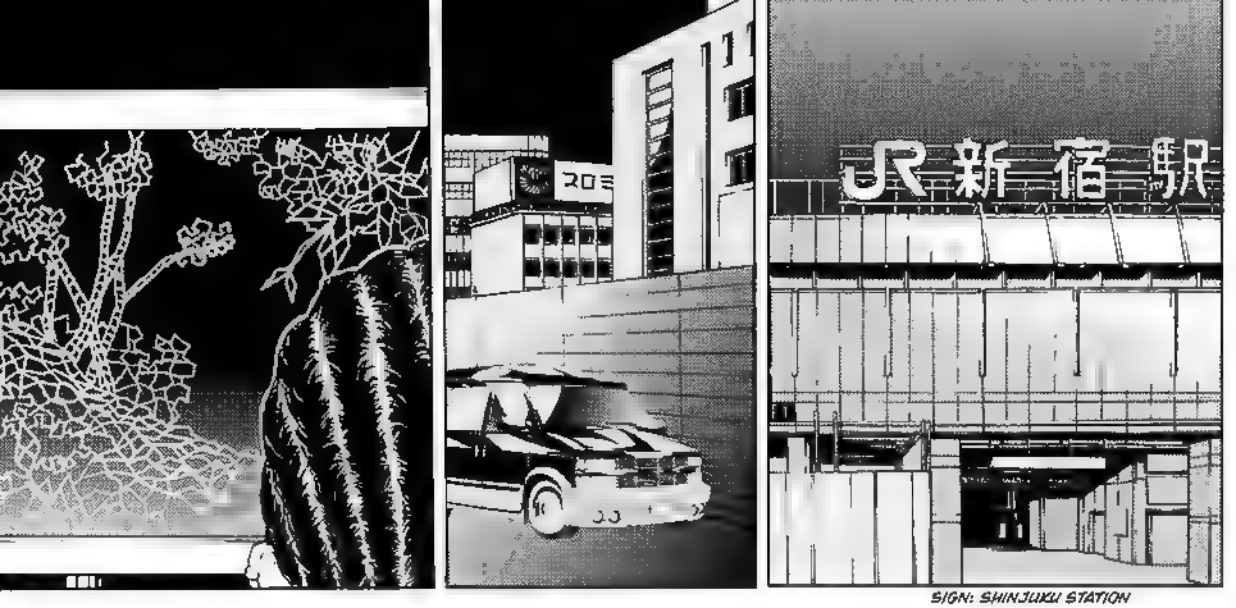
NOT THAT I MIND.
PIPI
NEED MORE
NEED MORE DATA
CZ75
TOKAREV TT 33
AK-74
NO DATA
DATA
NO DATA
KACHA (KSHING)

KA
(SLICE)
SHUBA
(SLASH)
TA
(DAT)
TA
TA
TA

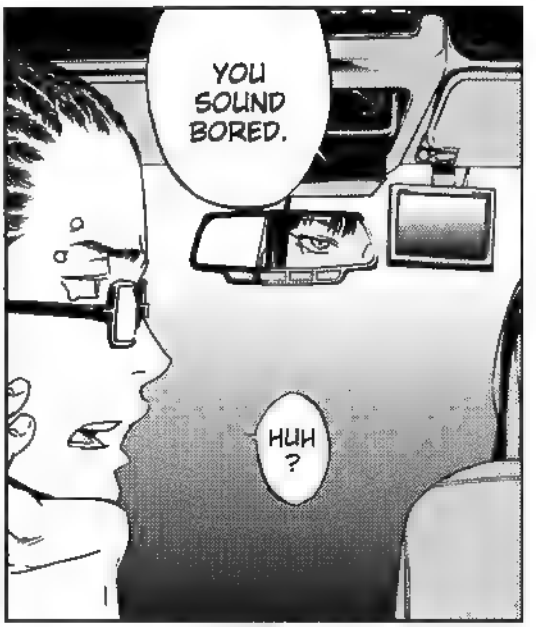
DOSASA
DOSA
TA
(DAT)
TA
TA
THE FUCK !?

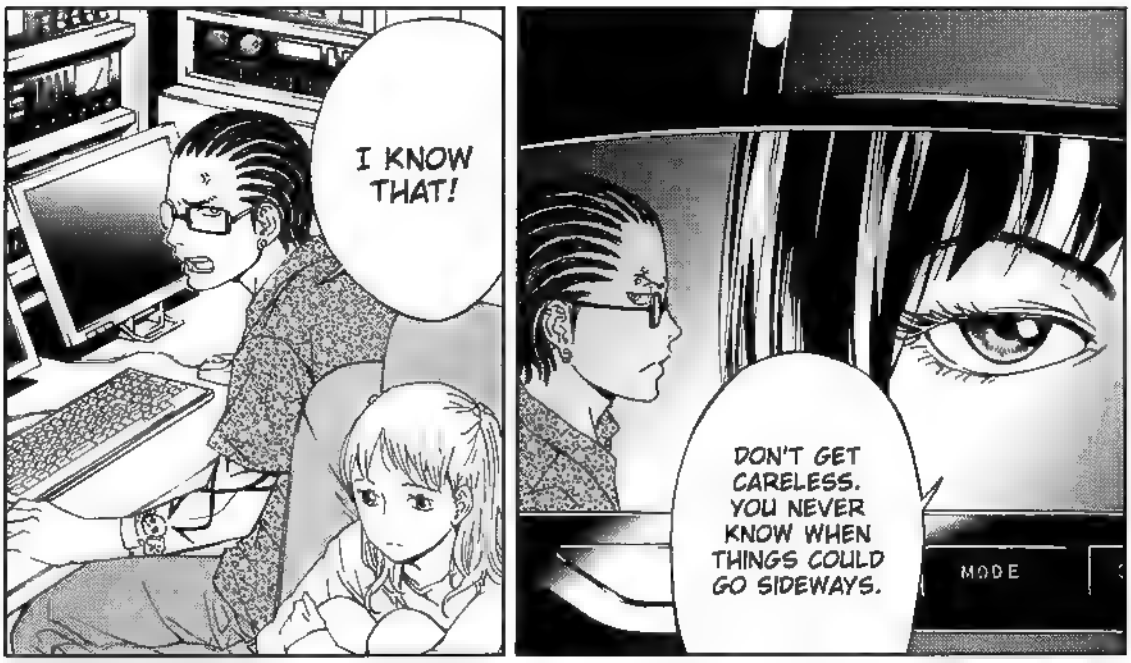
BYUBA
(SLICE)

...BUT YOU AIN'T GOIN' HOME FOR FREE...
AAGH!
DOSAA (THUDD)
YOU GOTTA FEEL SOME FEAR FIRST.
...
UNG...
AAH... AH...
HMPH ...
GABA (LEAP)
AAAH!!
...
TA (TEK)



SIGN: SHINJUKU STATION

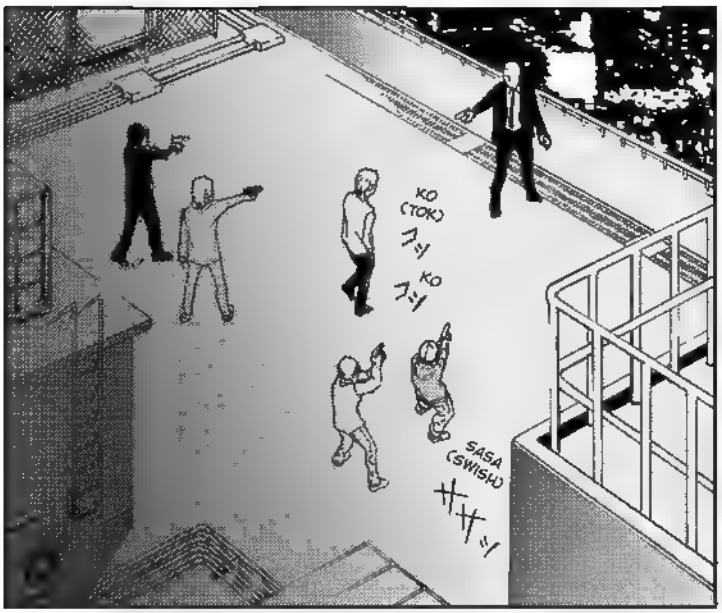



I KNOW THAT!
DON'T GET CARELESS. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THINGS COULD GO SIDEWAYS.
MODE

KING
I CAN THIN SOME OF THEM OUT IF YOU WANT.
WE'VE GOT A WHOLE BUNCH OF 'EM, CAPTAIN.
.....
THE JACK-ALS!

IT WOULD BE ALL TOO EASY TO ROUND THEM UP ALL AT ONCE.
INTERFERENCE IS FORBIDDEN EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.
Aye-aye, sir.
BUT OUR JOB HERE IS TO GIVE BLADE AS GREAT AN ADVANTAGE AS POSSIBLE.
IF WE CAN IMPRESS ON THEM THE TERROR HE INSPIRES, IT'LL DRIVE ALL THE NO-NAMES AWAY.
BA (SWISH)

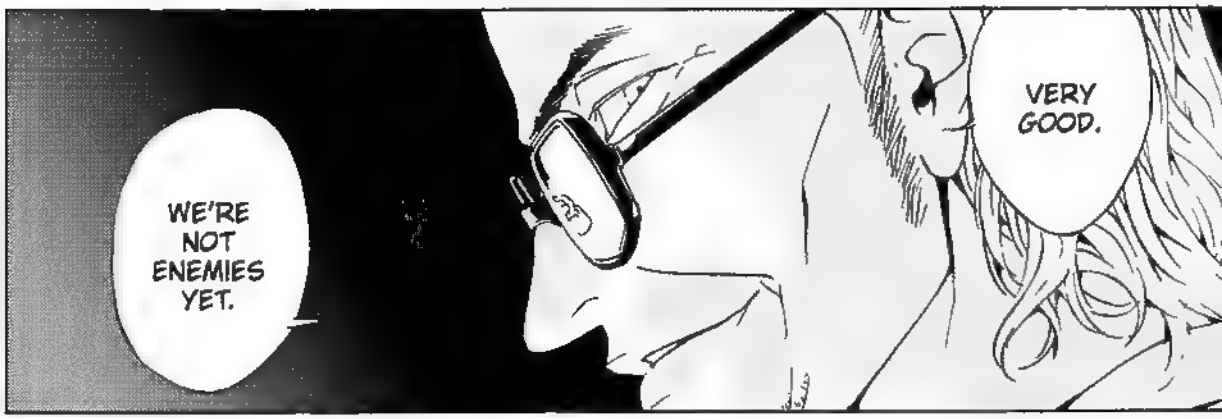
ガチ
GACHA (CLICK)
...
IT'S YOU.

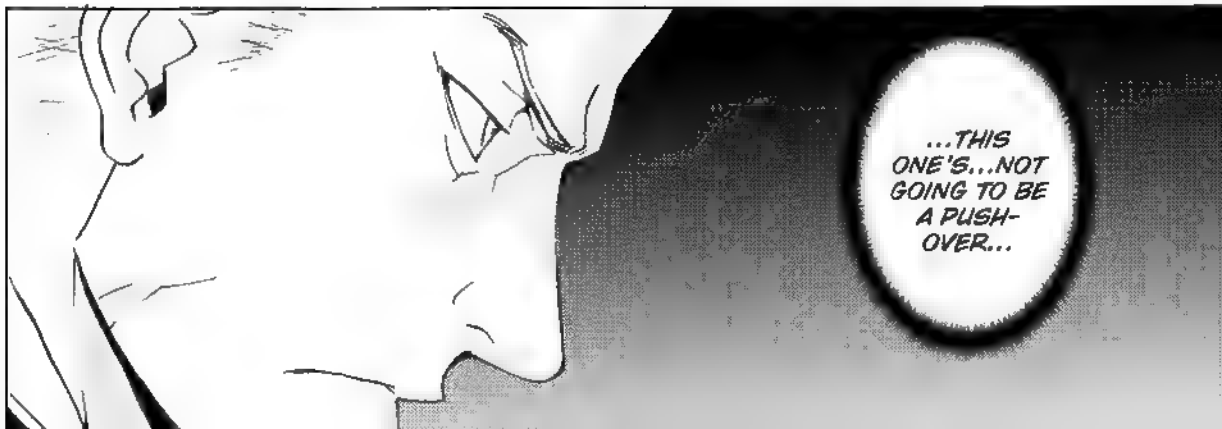

KO (TOK)
KO
SASA (SWISH)

BABA (LEAP)

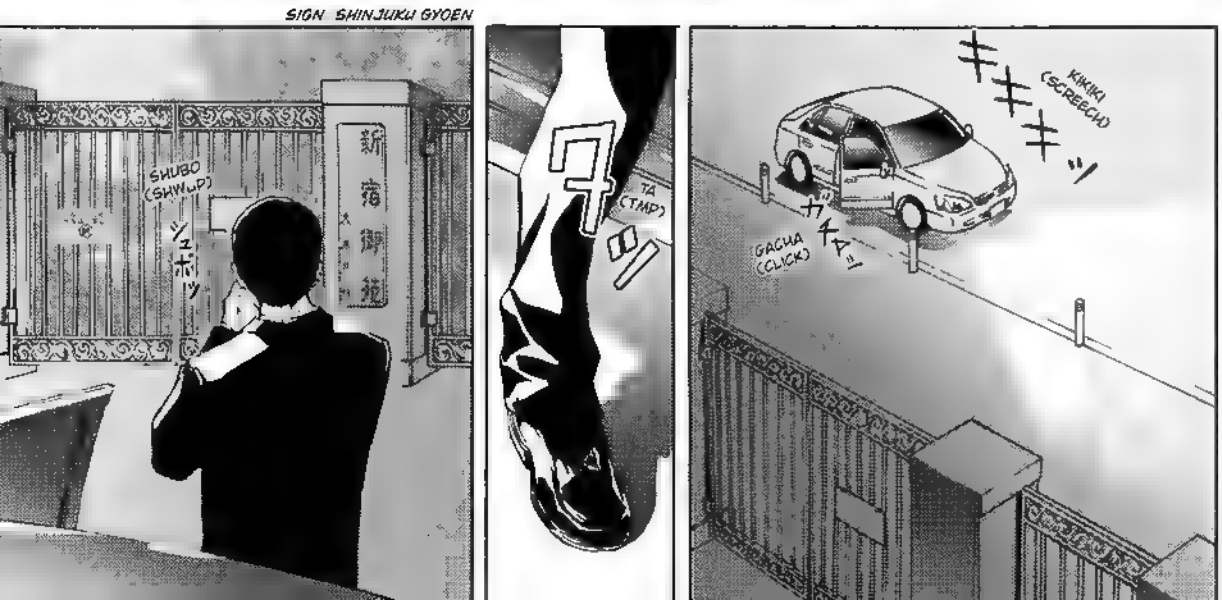
LET'S PUT THAT AWAY, SHALL WE?
GIVEN THE FACT THAT YOU PICKED THIS SPOT FOR RECON RATHER THAN FOR SNIPING...
...
...HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO BE AN OBSERVER, AS I HAVE?

CHA (CLICK)

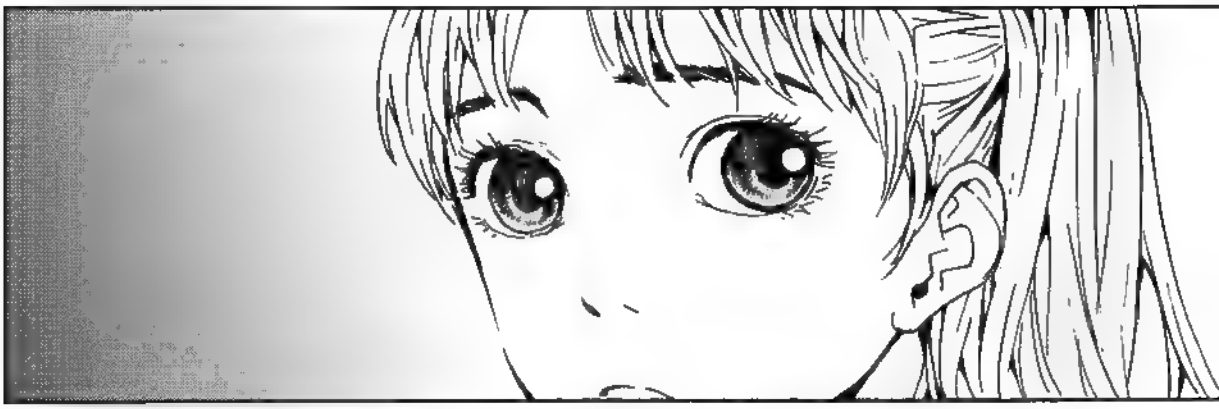

WE'RE NOT ENEMIES YET.
VERY GOOD.

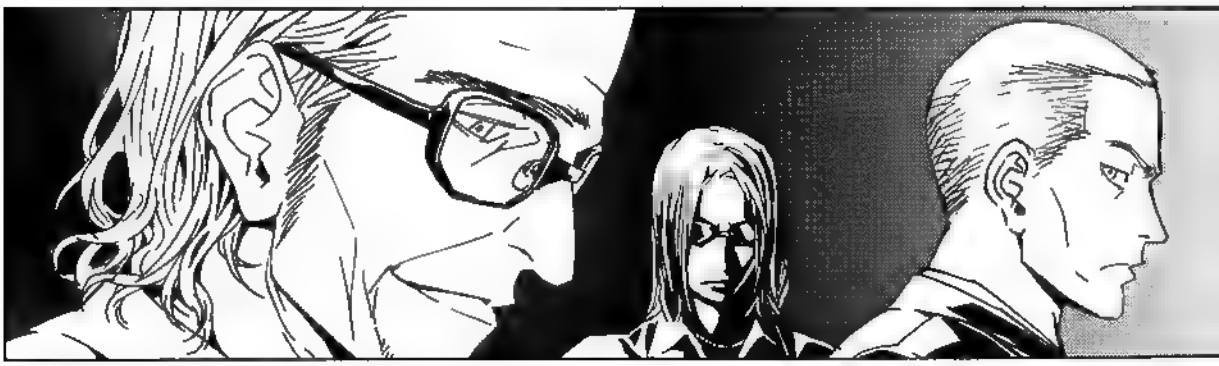

...THIS ONE'S...NOT GOING TO BE A PUSH-OVER...

I WAS JUST HOPING FOR SOMEONE TO TALK TO.


SIGN SHINJUKU GYOEN
新宿御苑
SHUBO (SHWuP)
ジュボッ
TA (TMP)
KIKIKI (SCREECH)
GACHA (CLICK)

SIGN: SHINJUKU GYOEN

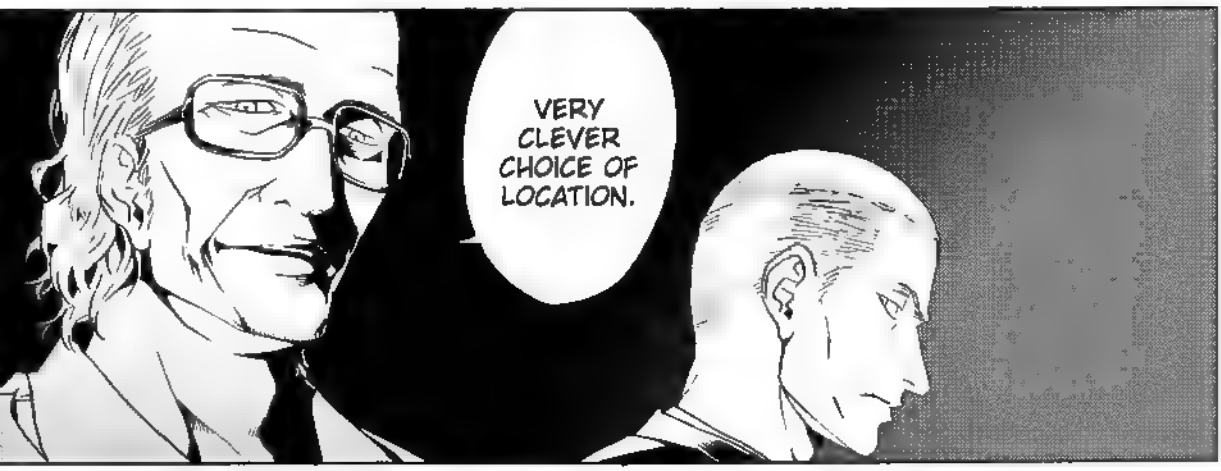




Until
Death
do us
Part

SHINJUKU GYOEN.
AN URBAN PARK THAT IS CLOSED OFF AT NIGHT.

THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD'S QUIET ON SUNDAY NIGHTS, AND TOMORROW THE PARK IS CLOSED.


VERY CLEVER CHOICE OF LOCATION.

HE'S CORNERED!
FIRE !!
OVER THERE!
DA (RATTA)
BOFU (BMF)
BOFU
CHUN (KAPING)
CHUN
SASAGA (GWISA)
SASAGA

NO PRIZE MONEY WITHOUT A BODY!
YOU GET HIM?
FIND HIS BODY!
WE'LL SPLIT THE HUNDRED —
HUH?
AHH.
GREAT!
I FOUND HIM.
OVER HERE!

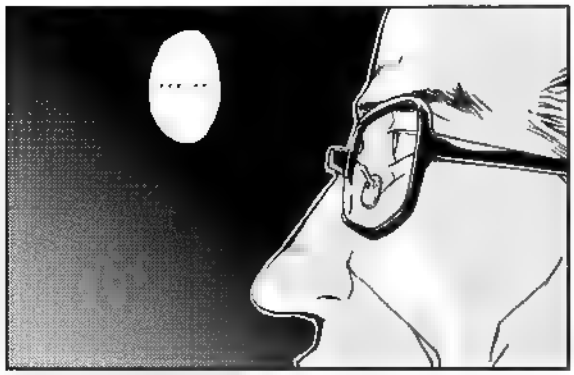
S... SORRY...

KI (CRAK)
SHOOT HI—
WHAT THE F—
DOSA (THUDD)
HUH!?
KA (SLICE)
GYAAA!
BUSHU (BSSHT)
AAAGH!
ARRGH!
GWAH!
AAAH!

chapter 48

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

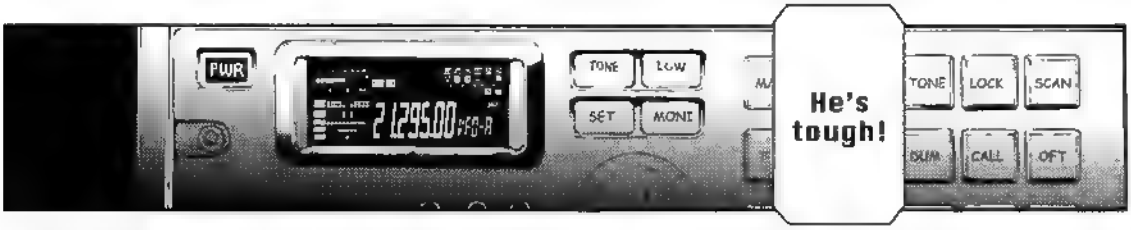
THE SAME REASON AS YOU, I BELIEVE.

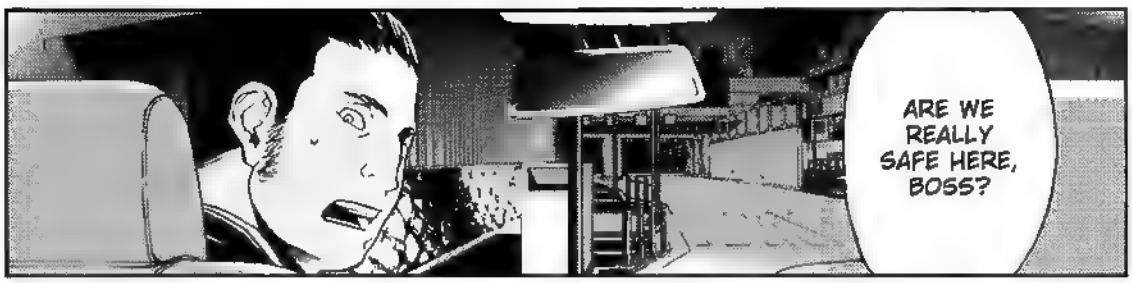

... ..

YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING, BUT AT A DISTANCE. NOT GOOD FOR SNIPING.
BUT CONVENIENT FOR WITH-DRAWAL.

QUIT PLAYING TOUGH AND MONITOR THE BATTLE, BOYS.
STILL... QUITE IMPRESSIVE...
HIS SKILLS, NOT TO MENTION HIS GUTS, ARE MADE OF SOLID STEEL.
I'D ESTIMATE THERE ARE AT LEAST A HUNDRED HUNTERS DOWN THERE.
AND THAT SAMURAI IS WADING RIGHT INTO THEIR MIDST AND CRUSHING THEM.

Don't let him get away.
Turn left up ahead.


PWR
TONE
LOW
SET
MONI
TONE
LOCK
SCAN
CALL
OFT
He's tough!


ARE WE REALLY SAFE HERE, BOSS?

OUR SAFETY IS THE LEAST OF YOUR CONCERNS.
THIS IS AN ARMORED CAR THAT INTERNATIONAL VIPs USE.
YOU MORON.

.....
...!? WH... WHAT'S WRONG !?
KIK'IN (KI'INK)
I PAID DAMN GOOD MONEY FOR MEN AND WEAPONS!
AND YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU CAN'T TAKE DOWN A SAMURAI LOST IN TIME, ARMED WITH A PAPER CUTTER!?
HYAAA!!
SHAAAA (DSHHH)

ピタ
PITA (FREEZE)
AAAAAH!!
GARA
GARA (KSHLNK)
EEEEP!!
DO (STALD)
AAAH!
H-HELP!

SO, HE'S GOING TO LURE THE IDIOTS WHO RELY ON NUMBERS INTO HIS CHOSEN ARENA IN ORDER TO GET RID OF THEM ALL AT ONCE.
ZUZU (SLIDE)
WH-WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE !?
DID I SAY THERE WAS A RULE THAT I COULDN'T LEAVE?
NOT A CHOICE AN ORDINARY MAN WOULD MAKE.

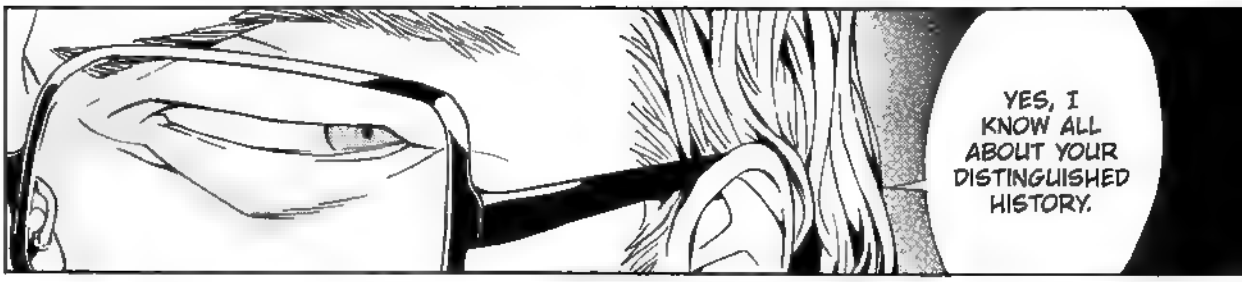
AAAAGH!!
BATA
BATA (FLOP)

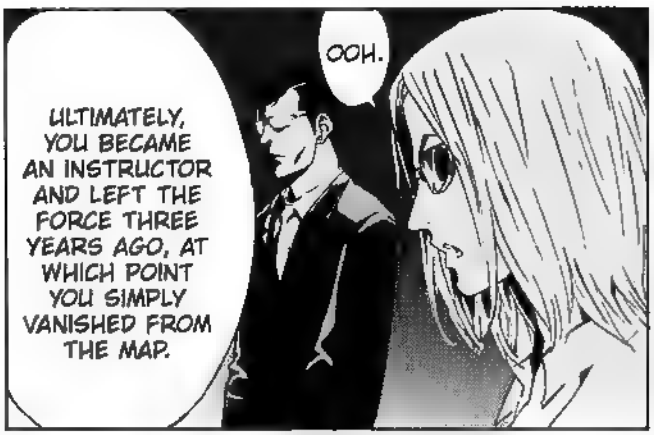
ブスッ
(PUSH)

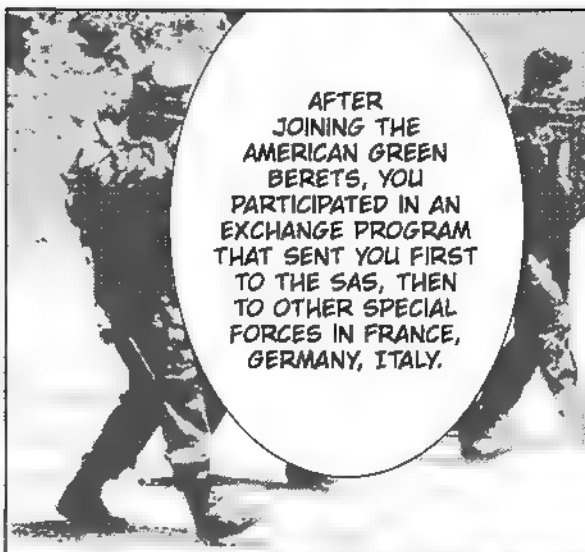
GYAAAA!!
ZUBU (THRUST)
ZUBU
BASTARD! WHAT DO YOU FIND SO ENTERTAINING ABOUT PICKING ON A POOR LITTLE GIRL!?

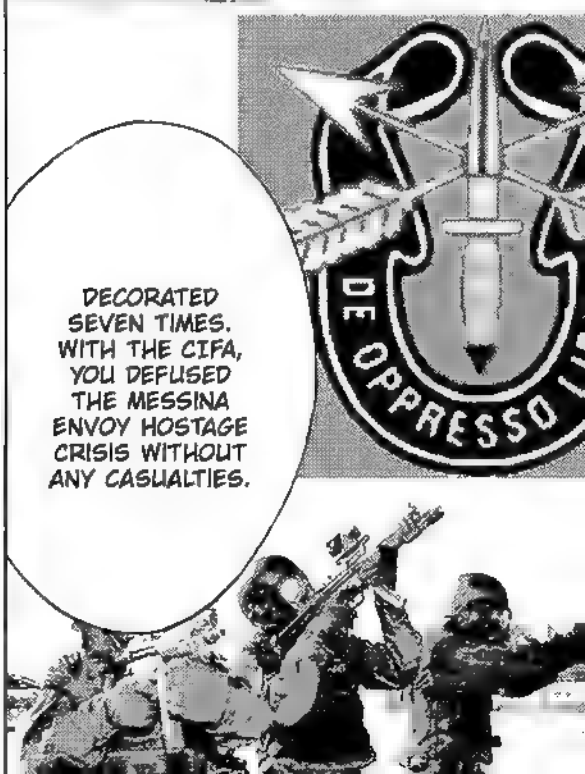
MY INTELLIGENCE CAN'T BE THAT GOOD IF I DIDN'T KNOW THIS GUY EXISTED UNTIL NOW.

AM I RIGHT, JACK GARVEY?




OOH.
ULTIMATELY, YOU BECAME AN INSTRUCTOR AND LEFT THE FORCE THREE YEARS AGO, AT WHICH POINT YOU SIMPLY VANISHED FROM THE MAP.


AFTER JOINING THE AMERICAN GREEN BERETS, YOU PARTICIPATED IN AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM THAT SENT YOU FIRST TO THE SAS, THEN TO OTHER SPECIAL FORCES IN FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY.



*CIFA: COUNTERINTELLIGENCE FIELD ACTIVITY A DOD AGENCY CREATED IN 2002 MEANT TO NEUTRALIZE THREATS TO AMERICA BEFORE THEY COULD PROVE HARMFUL. CIFA RECEIVED MEN FROM THE MILITARY, FBI, AND CIA ALIKE. AN AGENCY MEANT TO ATTACK, NOT PROTECT.

GA
GA
GA
GA
GA
(DSH)

GAGAGAGA
(DRRRR)

LET ME TURN THAT QUESTION RIGHT BACK AT YOU.
ALL RIGHT, MR. WISEMAN.

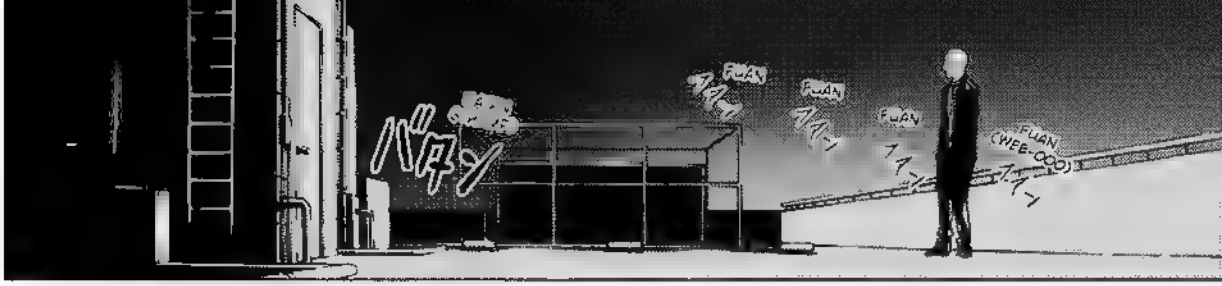
IF YOU'RE AFTER HIM TOO, YOU SHOULDN'T BE WASTING TIME UP HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

GAGA
BAK!
BAK!
(BAK!
(CRACK)
GAGAGAGA
BAK!
GAGAGAGA
YOU SHOULD BE USING THE CONFUSION AS COVER TO STRIKE.
(VWEEE)
YOU WON'T HAVE MANY OTHER CHANCES TO GET AT HIM.
.....
DOSU
DOSU
DOSU
(THUD)

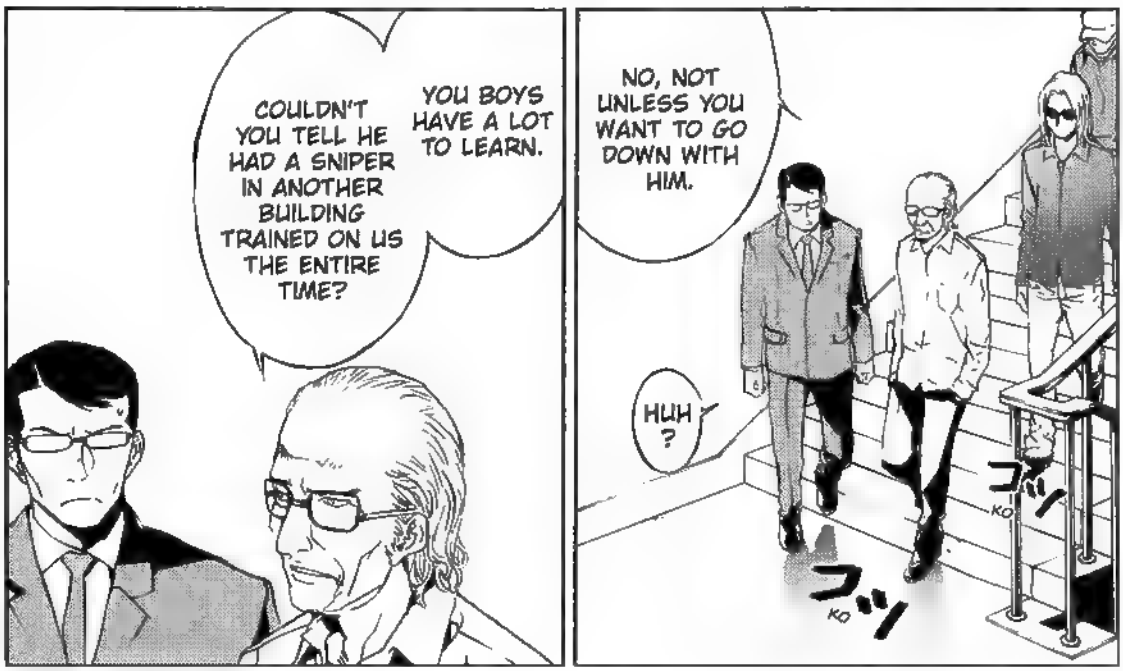
UNFORTUNATELY, I'M PRIORITIZING A DIFFERENT JOB RIGHT NOW AT MY CLIENT'S REQUEST.
UNTIL THEN, I'M JUST HERE FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT.
DOSAA (THWUMP)

H-HEY...
DA (DASH)
.. TH-THIS GUY'S A MON-STER ..
THAT SHOULD WRAP IT UP.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
I'VE ENJOYED THE CARNIVAL... AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT.
FUAN (WEE-GOO)
FUAN
FUAN
TELL HIM I SAID HELLO.


バタン
FUAN
FUAN
FUAN
FUAN (WEE-OOO)

...THEY DON'T CALL HIM "WISE-MAN" FOR NOTHING ...
BUT NOW I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING UP YOUR SLEEVE TOO.

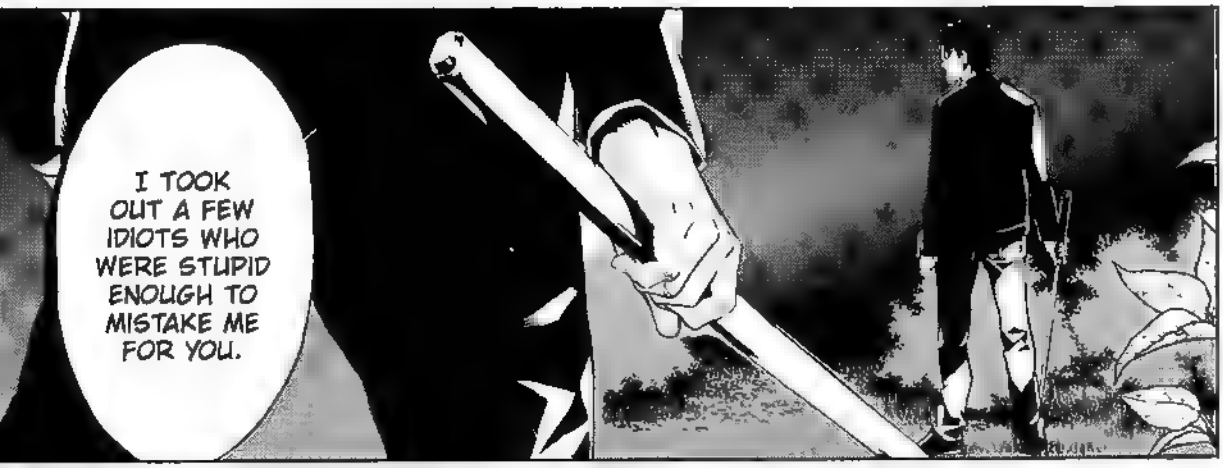
SHOULD WE GET RID OF HIM?
コツ KO
コツ KO (TOK)


YOU BOYS HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.
COULDN'T YOU TELL HE HAD A SNIPER IN ANOTHER BUILDING TRAINED ON US THE ENTIRE TIME?
NO, NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO GO DOWN WITH HIM.
HUH?
コツ KO
コツ KO

...AND A SNIPER TRAINED ON US FROM A LOCATION THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IDEAL FOR TAKING OUT THE BOUNTY.
HE HAD A WIRELESS UNIT ON HIM...
HE'S WORKING WITH OUR TARGET.
THAT'S ALL THE INFO YOU NEED TO FIND THE ANSWER.
KO
KO

HE'S PROBABLY THE LEADER OF A FULL BACKUP TEAM. A DANGEROUS FOE.
YES, SIR...
PLAN (WEE-OOO)
PLAN
PLAN
AAH.
URGH.

ZA
ZSHH
YO.
HYUOOO
WHOOSH


I TOOK OUT A FEW IDIOTS WHO WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO MISTAKE ME FOR YOU.

...

until death do us part ❸ - end

Translation Notes

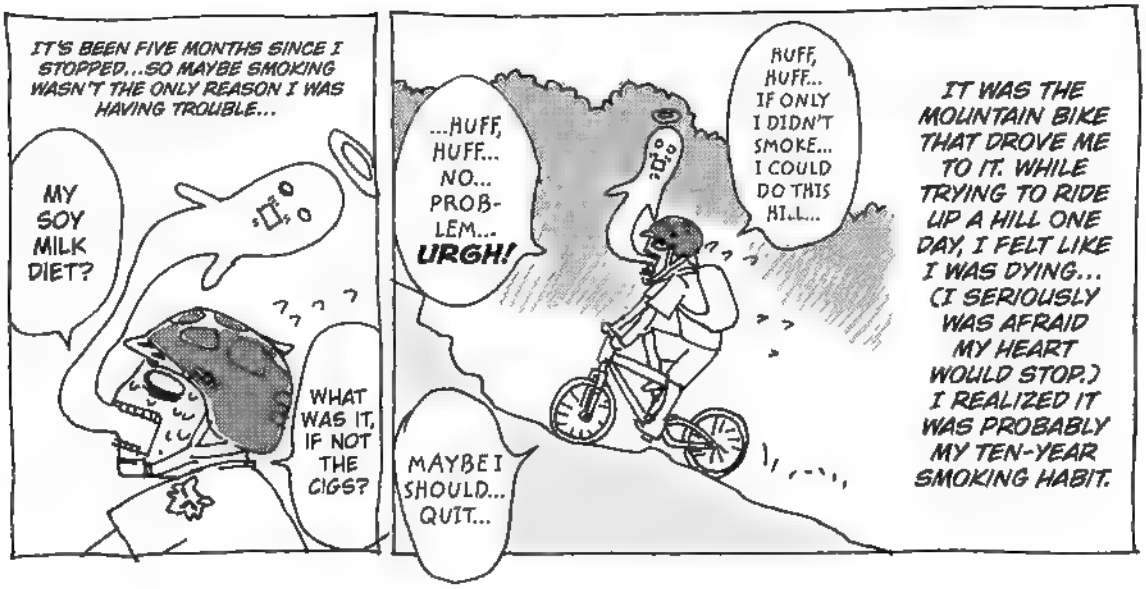
Common Honorifics
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
***-sama*:** Conveys great respect, may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
***-senpai*:** A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Yen conversion: While exchange rates fluctuate daily, a convenient conversion estimation is about ¥100 to 1 USD.

Page 310
www.prizeneck.com: This URL (which actually points to the homepage of Square Enix, the Japanese publisher of *Until Death Do Us Part*) corresponds to the Japanese term for "bounty." The word *shoukin-kubi*, the traditional term for a price placed upon someone's head, literally means "prize neck/head," and is the word used in the text of the manga when referring to Mamoru's bounty.

Page 363
Shinjuku Gyoen: A large park and garden located in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Formerly the exclusive domain of the imperial family, the gardens were rebuilt after World War II and were classified as a National Garden.

MAY 2007!
ULTRA-SUPER-WEAK-WILLED WIMP DOUBLE-S SWEARS OFF SMOKING!!
"OMAKE PAGE NON-SMOKING SPECIAL"


IT'S BEEN FIVE MONTHS SINCE I STOPPED...SO MAYBE SMOKING WASN'T THE ONLY REASON I WAS HAVING TROUBLE...
MY SOY MILK DIET?
WHAT WAS IT, IF NOT THE CIGS?
...HUFF, HUFF... NO... PROB-LEM... URGH!
HUFF, HUFF... IF ONLY I DIDN'T SMOKE... I COULD DO THIS HI...
MAYBE I SHOULD... QUIT...
IT WAS THE MOUNTAIN BIKE THAT DROVE ME TO IT. WHILE TRYING TO RIDE UP A HILL ONE DAY, I FELT LIKE I WAS DYING... (I SERIOUSLY WAS AFRAID MY HEART WOULD STOP.) I REALIZED IT WAS PROBABLY MY TEN-YEAR SMOKING HABIT.

NOW IT'S OCTOBER, AND I'VE BEEN SMOKE-FREE FOR FIVE MONTHS! HAS IT HAD ANY EFFECT? WELL... I SUPPOSE I MIGHT FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE GOTTEN A TEENSY BIT HEALTHIER? **BUT THE WITHDRAWAL IS A BITCH.**

GOOGLING FOR NICOTINE WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

YOU'RE KIDDING ME!

NO WAY!? THERE ARE THIS MANY SIDE EFFECTS?

ANOTHER REASON, WHICH I ONCE READ OF IN A HARUKI MURAKAMI NOVEL, WAS THAT I GOT TOO LAZY TO GO BUY A PACK OF CIGARETTES LATE AT NIGHT.

4TH FL.

IT'S SO FAR ...

STORE

0M 5M 10M

I'M MORE SENSITIVE TO SMELL, AND MY APPETITE'S GONE DOWN.

AND WHEN I'M BORED...OR AFTER I'VE HAD COFFEE OR A MEAL... **I REALLY, REALLY WANT A SMOKE!!**

IT HURTS... SO MUCH...

H-HELP ME.

UGH...

.....

THE WORST IS THE FITFUL SLEEP AND DREAMS I'VE STARTED HAVING...

BECAUSE OF THAT, NO AMOUNT OF SLEEP MAKES ME FEEL REFRESHED.

IT'S CHRONIC FATIGUE, EVERY DAY...

HRRRR ...

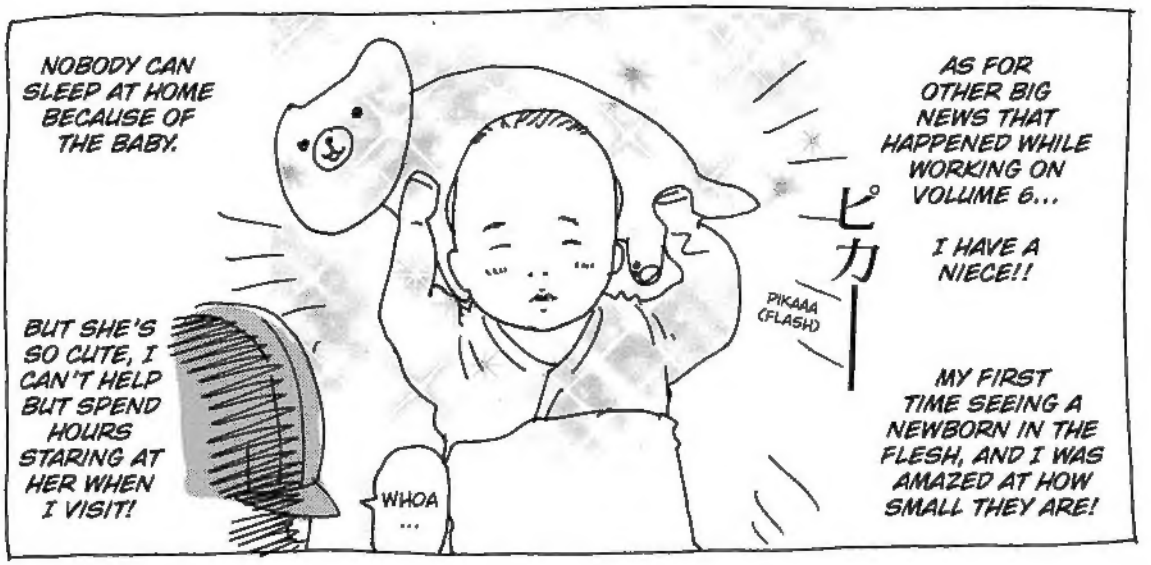
I'LL SMOKE EVERY GRIT IN THE WORLD !!

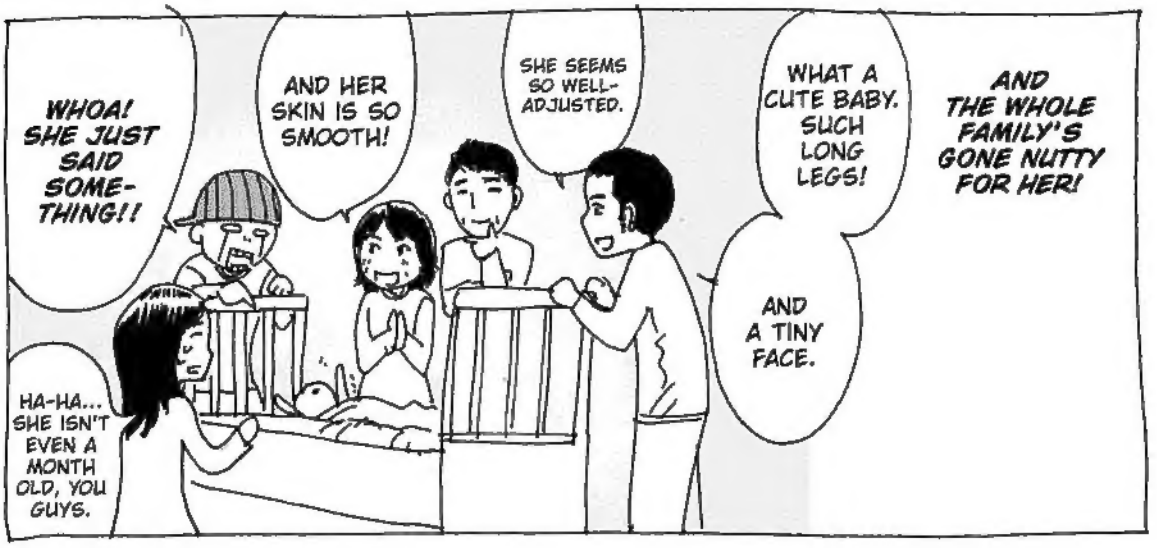
NOT SMOK-ING IS FOR PUSS-IES!!

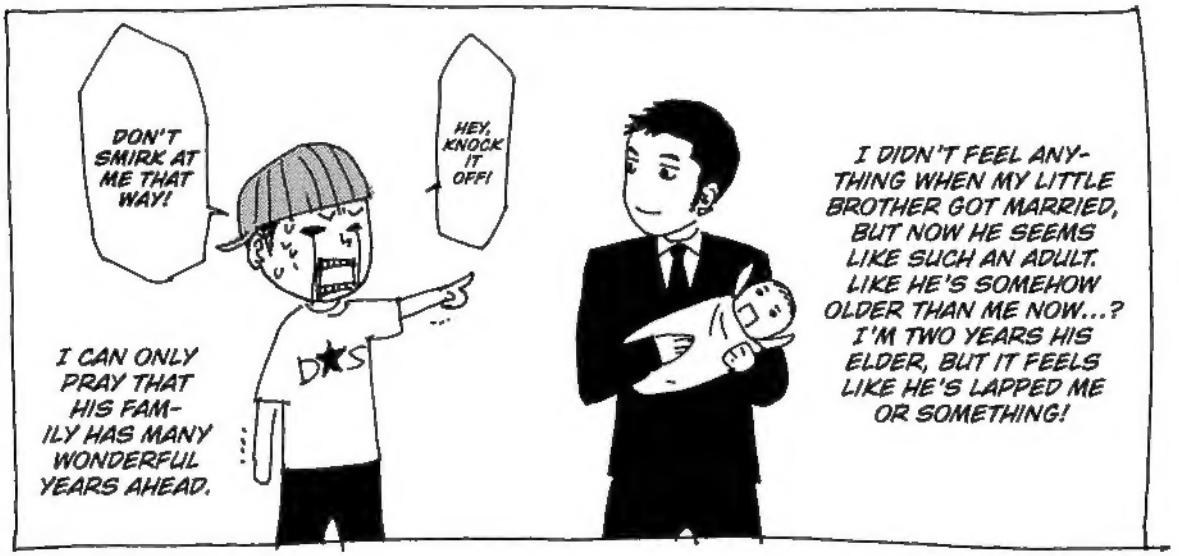
ULTRA-SUPER-WEAK-WILLED WIMP MODE

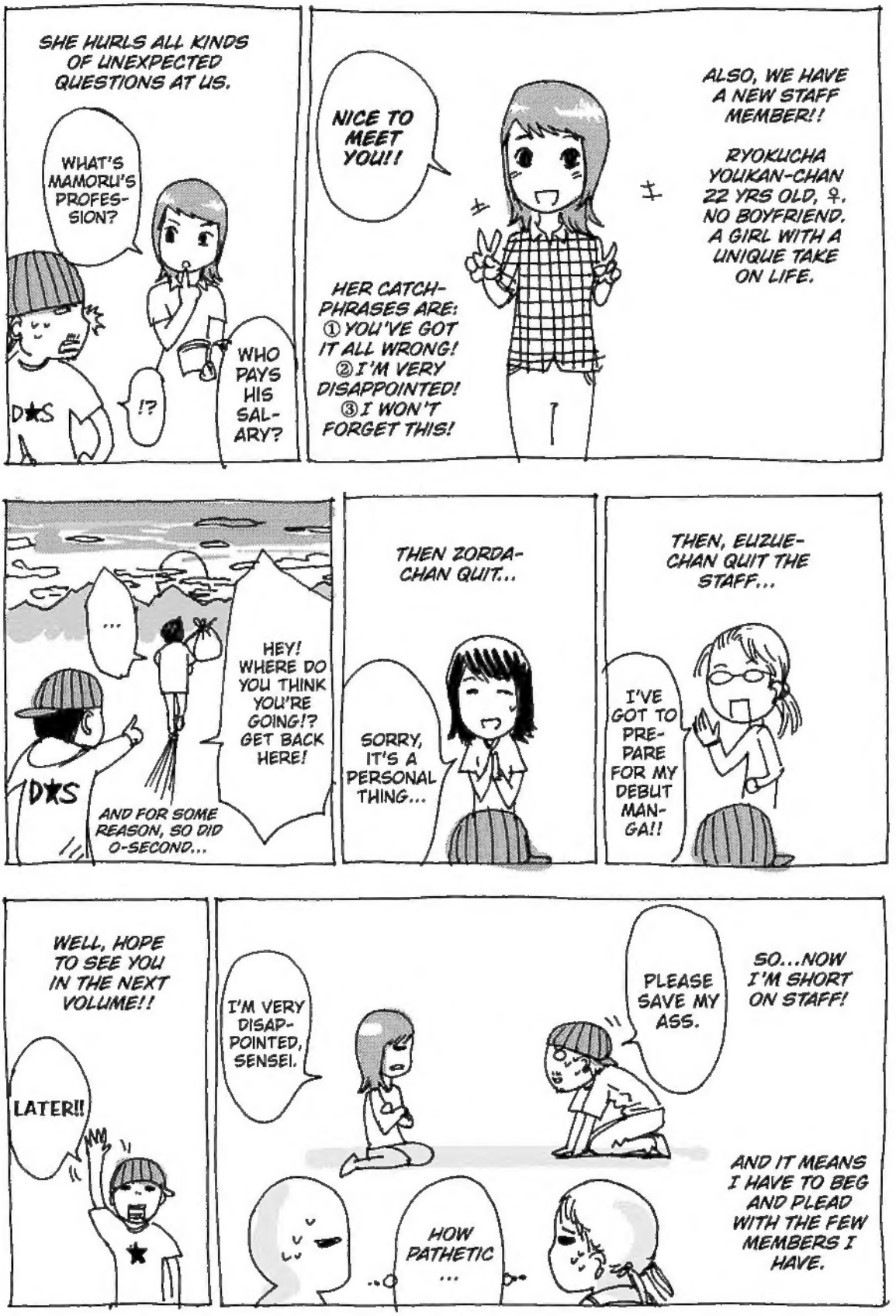
MY DREAMS THESE DAYS ARE LIKE THIS!

SOONER OR LATER MY WILL IS GOING TO BREAK...


NOBODY CAN SLEEP AT HOME BECAUSE OF THE BABY.
BUT SHE'S SO CUTE, I CAN'T HELP BUT SPEND HOURS STARING AT HER WHEN I VISIT!
WHOA...
ピカー
PIKAAA (FLASH)
AS FOR OTHER BIG NEWS THAT HAPPENED WHILE WORKING ON VOLUME 6...
I HAVE A NIECE!!
MY FIRST TIME SEEING A NEWBORN IN THE FLESH, AND I WAS AMAZED AT HOW SMALL THEY ARE!


WHOA! SHE JUST SAID SOME-THING!!
AND HER SKIN IS SO SMOOTH!
SHE SEEMS SO WELL-ADJUSTED.
WHAT A CUTE BABY. SUCH LONG LEGS!
AND A TINY FACE.
AND THE WHOLE FAMILY'S GONE NUTTY FOR HER!
HA-HA... SHE ISN'T EVEN A MONTH OLD, YOU GUYS.


DON'T SMIRK AT ME THAT WAY!
HEY, KNOCK IT OFF!
I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT HIS FAM-ILY HAS MANY WONDERFUL YEARS AHEAD.
I DIDN'T FEEL ANY-THING WHEN MY LITTLE BROTHER GOT MARRIED, BUT NOW HE SEEMS LIKE SUCH AN ADULT. LIKE HE'S SOMEHOW OLDER THAN ME NOW...? I'M TWO YEARS HIS ELDER, BUT IT FEELS LIKE HE'S LAPPED ME OR SOMETHING!


SHE HURLS ALL KINDS OF UNEXPECTED QUESTIONS AT US.
WHAT'S MAMORU'S PROFES-SION?
!?
WHO PAYS HIS SAL-ARY?
NICE TO MEET YOU!!
HER CATCH-PHRASES ARE: ①YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! ②I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED! ③I WON'T FORGET THIS!
ALSO, WE HAVE A NEW STAFF MEMBER!!
RYOKUCHA YOUKAN-CHAN 22 YRS OLD, ♀. NO BOYFRIEND. A GIRL WITH A UNIQUE TAKE ON LIFE.
...
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!? GET BACK HERE!
AND FOR SOME REASON, SO DID O-SECOND...
THEN ZORDA-CHAN QUIT...
SORRY, IT'S A PERSONAL THING...
THEN, EUZUE-CHAN QUIT THE STAFF...
I'VE GOT TO PRE-PARE FOR MY DEBUT MAN-GA!!
WELL, HOPE TO SEE YOU IN THE NEXT VOLUME!!
LATER!!
I'M VERY DISAP-POINTED, SENSEI.
PLEASE SAVE MY ASS.
SO...NOW I'M SHORT ON STAFF!
HOW PATHETIC ...
AND IT MEANS I HAVE TO BEG AND PLEAD WITH THE FEW MEMBERS I HAVE.

Art Staff
VaaasQ (24) ♂: Chief Assistant
Suri (24) ♀: Background Art
Ryokucha Youkan (22) ♀:
Screentones & Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART ❸

Hiroshi Takashige
DOUBLE-S

Translation: Stephen Paul
Lettering: AndWorld Design

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